Come to Dubuque for the 2017 Upper Midwest APA Planning Conference and experience the flavor and the benefits of an authentic “Masterpiece on the Mississippi!” Named the 4th Best American Riverfront by USA Today’s 10Best.com, Dubuque’s location along the Mississippi River is one you don’t want to miss. Dubuque features a rich history, magnificent historical architecture, diverse arts and cultural amenities, and abundant natural beauty, including majestic limestone bluffs along our beautiful riverfront. The reinvention of Iowa’s first city over the past 15 years has been a catalyst for the evolution of the Dubuque area as a destination for travel.
KEEP IN MIND

- Lunch will not be provided on Friday. Please plan accordingly to visit one of the many great options in the Dubuque area.
- Hardcopies of the conference program will not be printed. Please print your own program or use the Guidebook App available for download on iPhone and Android devices.
- Water bottles will be provided and there are water fountains to refill throughout the venue.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER
Attendees will experience three different Dubuque restaurant venues, one each for appetizers [Stone Cliff Winery, 600 Star Brewery Drive], entrees [Vinny Vanucchi’s, 180 Main Street], and dessert [Mandolin Inn, 199 Loras Blvd]. Tickets are required for this event. Registrants who purchased tickets in advance should receive their tickets at Registration.

RECEPTION & AWARDS PROGRAM
The Thursday evening reception and awards ceremony will take place at Novelty Iron Works [333 E 10th St]. In the heart of Dubuque's Historic Millwork District, the Novelty Iron Works company began business on January 1, 1876. A workforce of fifty men produced machinery for flour mills, saw mills, steam engines, water wheels, and well-drilling machines.

Awards program will begin at 6:30 pm. Light appetizers and two drink tickets will be provided.

6 REASONS TO JOIN APA
1. Get a job!
Connect with potential employers through our conference and regional events. Plus, our website is the best source for planner job listings in Iowa.

2. Stay sharp
The world of planning is always changing, and APA Iowa provides frequent learning events on emerging topics.

3. Influence Planning Policy
Help APA Iowa advocate for planning-friendly laws and policies for the State of Iowa.

4. Display your credentials
Being part of a professional association like APA signals to others that you are a trained and knowledgeable expert in your field.

5. Lead the way
APA Iowa provides a state-wide platform and a network of knowledgeable planners, to help you create and share the next big idea in planning!

6. Share your passion
Surround yourself with like-minded people who love cities and planning as much as you do. For more information about joining APA, visit our website at www.iowa-apa.org.

Not a full time planner? Consider a Chapter-only membership to join Iowa APA for just $50 a year.
## Conference At a Glance

### Wednesday, October 4

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:00—2:00</td>
<td><strong>Closing Keynote for Growing Sustainable Communities Conference</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00—5:00</td>
<td><strong>Exhibit Hall &amp; Registration Open</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00—5:00</td>
<td><strong>MOBILE TOURS</strong></td>
<td>• Downtown Bicycle Tour&lt;br&gt;• Millworks District Walking Tour&lt;br&gt;• Bee Branch Watershed Trolley Tour</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:45—9:00</td>
<td><strong>Progressive Dinner</strong> (Pre-Registration Required)**</td>
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### Thursday, October 5

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:30—8:00</td>
<td><strong>Breakfast</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00—8:45</td>
<td><strong>Welcome and State of the Chapter Update</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45—9:00</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00—9:45</td>
<td><strong>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</strong></td>
<td>• Urban Markets: Restoring &amp; Revitalizing the Ramshackle in Your Town&lt;br&gt;• People Powered Planning in Grand Marias, MN&lt;br&gt;• Iowa Data Bike: Prioritizing Maintenance on Regional Trials&lt;br&gt;• Rezoning the Field of Dreams or If You Build it Lawyers Will Come</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00—11:30</td>
<td><strong>MOBILE TOUR</strong></td>
<td>• Downtown Redevelopment</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:45—10:00</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00—11:15</td>
<td><strong>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</strong></td>
<td>• 200 Years of Evolution—Davenport’s East Village</td>
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**Thursday, October 5 (continued)**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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| 4:00—4:45| **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**  
• Redevelopment From Plans to Action  
• Bee Branch Food Forest: A Dubuque Example of Collaborations that Foster Innovative Community Projects  
• You Think You’re Sol-Smart: A Case Study  
• AICP Planning Ethics Forum (4:00—5:30) |
| 4:45—5:00| Break                                                                                             |
| 5:00—5:45| **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**  
• Connecting Watersheds: Economic Resources, Partnerships, & Projects  
• Historic Preservation: Carrots & Sticks  
• AICP Exam and AICP Candidate Info |
| 5:45—6:00| Break                                                                                             |
| 6:00—8:00| Reception & Awards Ceremony at Novelty Iron Works  
Awards program begins at 6:30 |

**Friday, October 6**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30—8:00</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
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</table>
| 8:00—9:15| **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**  
• Fort Dodge: Bouncing Back from 3 Decades of Devastating Decline  
• ISU Planning Outreach: A Panel Discussion  
• Public Private Stewardship: The Future of Resilience Planning & Environmental Advocacy |
| 9:15—9:30| Break                                                                                             |
| 9:30—10:45| **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**  
• The Clive Greenbelt: Clive’s Social, Recreational Corridor & Regional Resource  
• How Street Design Shapes Behavior and Reflects Value / Advancing Transportation Options in Des Moines  
• AICP Planning Law (9:30-11:00) |
| 10:45—11:00| Break                                                                                             |
| 11:00—12:00| **Keynote Address**  
Diversity in the Heartland |

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Future of Resilience Planning & Environmental Advocacy
UPPER MIDWEST APA CONFERENCE
CREATING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES  OCTOBER 4-6, 2017

UPPER MIDWEST APA CONFERENCE STEERING COMMITTEE

Laura Carstens, City of Dubuque, Chair
Ose Akinlotan, City of Dubuque
Cori Burbach, City of Dubuque
Ben Champ, City of Pleasant Hill
Mary Rose Corrigan, City of Dubuque
Naomi Hamlett, City of Des Moines
Jim Holz, MSA Professional Services
Julie Kronlage, Travel Dubuque
Amber Lynch, City of Des Moines
Dylan Mullenix, DMAMPO
Rich Russell, retired
Kirsty Sanchez, City of Cedar Rapids
Chris Shires, Confluence Landscape Architects
Madeline Sturms, City of Pleasant Hill
8:00 am—12:00 pm  REGISTRATION

12:00 pm—2:00 pm  CLOSING KEYNOTE FOR GROWING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE

2:00 pm—5:00 pm  [MOBILE] DUBUQUE HISTORIC MILLWORK DISTRICT (Registration Required)

    Speaker: Laura Carstens, Planning Services Manager, City of Dubuque
             Dan LoBianco, Executive Director, Dubuque Main Street
             David Johnson, Assistant Planner, City of Dubuque

    Location: Meet at the front doors of the Grand River Center at 2:15 p.m.

    Over one million square feet of vacant or underutilized historic warehouse space is being transformed into urban, mixed-use development in Dubuque’s Historic Millwork District. Based on a Master Plan created by public and private sector partners, the District is attracting entrepreneurs, designers, residents, institutions, and businesses to a sustainable neighborhood located in the heart of downtown Dubuque. The execution of the plan involves capitalizing on the embodied energy of historic buildings, creating unique commercial and office spaces that are recruiting entrepreneurs, intentionally integrating the arts and non-profit community, and creating unique upper-story housing. This walking tour will include discussions of green infrastructure, visits inside the various warehouse spaces, and conversations with City staff, developers, and partners.

2:00 pm—5:00 pm  [MOBILE] DOWNTOWN BICYCLE TOUR (Registration Required)

    Speaker: Mary Rose Corrigan, RN Public Health Specialist, City of Dubuque
             Gus Psihoyos, City Engineer, City of Dubuque
             William O’Brien, Manager, Water & Resource Recovery Center

    Location: Meet at the front doors of the Grand River Center at 2:15 p.m.

    Dubuque’s Washington Neighborhood is one of its oldest and most diverse neighborhoods, and home to some of the city’s most historic housing stock. Revitalization efforts led by the public and private sector, as well as neighborhood residents, have been underway since 2005. Join this biking tour to learn more about the neighborhood’s many assets and initiatives, including community gardens, parks investments, neighborhood art projects, Crescent Community Health Center, and Steeple Square. Also hear about the public-private partnerships that are rehabilitating historic housing stock and providing opportunities for renters and homeowners.

*Please note bicycles will be provided for all riders by the Dubuque Bike Coop. Helmets are not required in Iowa; however, attendees are encouraged to bring their own helmet as they will not be provided. This tour will occur in flat neighborhoods and is suitable for all biking abilities.
2:00 pm—5:00 pm  
[MOBILE] **TROLLEY TOUR OF THE BEE BRANCH WATERSHED PROJECT**  
(Registration Required)  

**Speaker:** Deron Muehring, *Civil Engineer II, City of Dubuque*  

**Location:** Meet at the front doors of the Grand River Center at 2:15 p.m.  

The Bee Branch Watershed flood mitigation and water quality project is reintroducing the confined Bee Branch Creek to one of Dubuque's oldest neighborhoods where hundreds of families and businesses have been repeatedly impacted by looting. The watershed-wide approach will protect the neighborhood from stormwater events while creating a linear park, revived habitat, community orchard, and educational venue for the entire community.

5:45 pm—9:00 pm  
**PROGRESSIVE DINNER**  

**Location:** Depart Grand River Center at 5:45 pm. Groups can walk or take the Motor Coach.  

Attendees will experience three different Dubuque restaurant venues, one each for appetizers [Stone Cliff Winery, 600 Star Brewery Drive], entrees [Vinny Vanucchi’s, 180 Main Street], and dessert [Mandolin Inn, 199 Loras Blvd]. Tickets are required for this event. Registrants who purchased tickets in advance should receive their tickets at Registration.
7:30 am—8:00 am  CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:00 am—8:45 am  WELCOME AND STATE OF THE CHAPTER UPDATE

Speaker:  Roy D. Buol, Mayor of Dubuque
          J. Benjamin Champ, APA-Iowa President
          Wendy Moeller, APA Region IV Director

Location:  Salon C / D

9:00 am—9:45 am  URBAN MARKETS: RESTORING & REVITALIZING THE RAMSHACKLE IN YOUR TOWN

Speaker:  Ben Peotter, PE, Supervisor– Brownfield Redevelopment Services, Ayers Associates
          Barbara Kloth, AICP, Planner, Ayers Associates

Location:  Room 1

Industrial dinosaurs can act like shackles to warehouse districts and downtowns that are brimming with potential. Join us to find out how these iconic buildings can be transformed into thriving marketplaces that can anchor rebirth of your downtown edge district. We’ll look at established examples ranging from The Source in Denver’s River North District to the Pine Street Market in Portland, while also exploring grassroots transformations taking shape in Cheyenne, Wyoming’s West Edge. What's more, this session will highlight the financial realities that make this model feasible for less urban communities while providing helpful hints on how you can get started in turning blighted brownfield sites into productive change agents in your community.

9:00 am—9:45 am  PEOPLE-POWERED PLANNING IN GRAND MARAIS, MN

Speaker:  Antonio Rosell, Director, Community Design Group
          Jono Cowgill, Planner, Community Design Group

Location:  Room 2

Explore exciting new approaches to comprehensive planning in this dynamic discussion session led by Minnesota APA’s Planner of the Year for 2015, Antonio Rosell. This session uses the case study of Grand Marais, MN (named the 2017 Best Midwest Small Town by USA Today) to discuss innovation in citizen empowerment-based community planning, using approaches like community-based engagement champions, co-production of the comprehensive plan document, and eschewing conventional rules about plan topic areas and recommendation expertise. Participants will have the opportunity to think deeply about the practical and technical applications of engagement. This is a unique opportunity to explore how innovative strategies can enhance planning processes, increase community buy-in, and move towards more collaborative, resilient, healthy communities.
IOWA DATA BIKE: PRIORITIZING MAINTENANCE ON REGIONAL TRAILS
Speaker: Marcus Coenen, Associate Transportation Planner, Des Moines Area MPO
Location: Room 3

There is currently not enough information for local governments to make informed decisions about which trails will need maintenance and when they’ll need to budget for those maintenance projects. Unlike the street network, for which pavement-condition data are regularly collected, there are no pavement-condition data being collected for the paved trail network. Nor is there a means for collecting trail pavement-condition data, as the equipment used on roadways is too large and requires too high of speeds to be used on trails. The objective of the Iowa Data Bike project is to develop a bike-based data-collection vehicle to collect pavement-condition data for all paved trails within Central Iowa for the use of the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and its member cities and counties, as well as partner organizations such as the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. This data will help inform a long-term maintenance strategy for Central Iowa’s trail network.

REZONING THE FIELD OF DREAMS, OR IF YOU BUILD IT, LAWYERS WILL COME
Speaker: Gary Taylor, J.D., AICP, Interim Director, Community & Economic Development Program, Iowa State University, Christopher Shires, AICP, Principal, Confluence, Inc.
Location: Room 6

In 2012, the City of Dyersville, Iowa, approved a rezoning of an area that included the location of the farmhouse and baseball field from the 1989 movie "Field of Dreams." This rezoning drew a lawsuit from neighboring property owners and community members challenging the City's action. In this presentation, we will cover the major legal points of the court's decision, key takeaways that planners should consider when handling a rezoning process in their community (and how courts will review that process), and lessons to be learned for "planners as expert witnesses."

DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT MOBILE WORKSHOP
Speaker: Dan LoBianco, Executive Director, Dubuque Main Street
Jill Connors, Economic Development Project Coordinator
Wally Wernimont, Assistant Planner, City of Dubuque
Maurice Jones, Economic Development Director, City of Dubuque
Location: Meet at the front doors of the Grand River Center
DOWN TOWN REDEVELOPMENT MOBILE WORKSHOP (cont'd)

Explore downtown Dubuque and see how historic buildings continue to be adaptively re-used for mixed-use development and upper story housing. See properties in various stages of rehabilitation, from currently underway to newly-finished projects. Learn about funding programs for façade improvements, upper story residential units, & commercial first floor spaces. Learn about the Main Street Four Point Approach, which translates well for revitalizing storefronts in small towns.

9:45 am—10:00 am  BREAK

10:00 am—11:15 am  200 YEARS OF EVOLUTION: THE VILLAGE OF EAST DAVENPORT

Speaker: Joe Taylor, President, Quad Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau
Matt Flynn, AICP, Senior Planning Manager, City of Davenport
John Wisor, Business/Property Owner and Developer, 11th Street Precinct
Martha O’Brien, Wide River Winery

Location: Room 1

This session will briefly outline the history of the Village of East Davenport (VED), its challenges and successes as a neighborhood commercial center up to the recently completed VED Master Plan and ongoing plan implementation.

10:00 am—11:15 am  NEW VOICES—NEW IDEAS—ENGAGING THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

Speaker: David Johnson, Assistant Planner, City of Dubuque
Erin Cigliano, AICP, Senior Associate + Designer, Teska Associates, Inc.
Ose Akinlotan, Planning Technician, City of Dubuque
Mike Hoffman, AICP, Vice President, Teska Associates, Inc.
Clyde Evans, AICP, Director of Community & Economic Development, City of West Des Moines
Diane Williams, Director, Business Districts, Inc.

Location: Room 2
10:00 am—11:15 am
NEW VOICES—NEW IDEAS—ENGAGING THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

Government can no longer expect people to come to them. Instead government must now go to the people! Meeting people where they are is at the heart of Imagine Dubuque. This innovative campaign to create a new Dubuque Comprehensive Plan generated over 6,000 ideas and met demographic targets with diverse, inclusive and tailored engagement. Learn about the use of traditional engagement tools as well as social media, websites, polls, and other promotional materials to carry momentum forward and to coordinate events and ideas into an innovative Comprehensive Plan.

How do you take a good neighborhood, anchored by a strong Main Street, and make it great? That was the challenge laid down at the beginning of the Historic West Des Moines Master Planning process. This session will review some of the traditional and innovative techniques planners used to reach out to the community, challenges faced in revitalizing and aging but resilient business district, and ways to blend a successful Main Street into the surrounding neighborhood. Challenges related to maintaining the affordability and diversity of housing will also be addressed.

10:00 am—11:15 am
PLANNING WITH SUSTAINABILITY

Speaker: Aaron Lande, Operations & Member Relations Manager, STAR Communities
Laura Carstens, Planning Services Manager, City of Dubuque
Eric Holthaus, Sustainability Coordinator, City of Cedar Rapids

Location: Room 3

As local governments continue to embrace comprehensive sustainability in their communities, efforts have begun to evaluate the success of plans and policies using sustainability metrics. In this session sustainability staffers will talk about how their cities are approaching the integration of sustainability into planning efforts using the STAR Community Rating System and certification program.

Audience members will learn about the process undertaken at the local level to evaluate sustainability efforts to date and how that evaluation is being used to inform city planning and policymaking. Audience members will also be introduced to the STAR Community Rating System, a framework of comprehensive sustainability performance standards that municipalities can use to set local goals, measure progress, and improve their communities.
### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2017

<table>
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<th>Event</th>
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| 10:00 am—11:15 am | **MENTOR MATCH**  
Location: Room 6  
This is the planned meet-up time for those preregistered and participating in the mentor match program. There will be a brief orientation and introductions followed by a time for each mentor pair to connect on their own. |
| 11:15 am—11:30 am | **BREAK** |
| 11:30 am—12:45 pm | **KEYNOTE LUNCHEON: BEWARE A DEDICATED GROUP OF AMATEURS**  
Speaker: Jason Roberts, Better Block  
Location: Salon C / D  
Learn the story of Better Block and the ideas behind the approach to community-driven creative placemaking. |
| 12:45 pm—1:00 pm | **BREAK** |
| 1:00 pm—2:15 pm | **TRANSFORMING TRAGEDY INTO OPPORTUNITY: HOW CEDAR RAPIDS ROSE FROM THE FLOOD AND REBUILT ITS LEGACY**  
Speaker: Melissa Edsill Tiedemann, *Business Development Manager, Stanley Consultants*  
Robert Davis, PE, ENVSP, *Flood Control Manager, City of Cedar Rapids*  
Location: Room 1  
How can a flood control project become more than just levies and walls? Experience an explosion of redevelopment? Have a compelling impact on future lives? Create meaning and retain the culture of the past? The presentation will focus on redevelopment design techniques that emphasized the draw of the river in Cedar Rapids, rather than the danger of the river. |
1:00 pm—2:15 pm  
**PLANNING HEALTHY IOWA COMMUNITIES**  
**Speaker:** John Peterson, *Principal, Peterson Planning Strategies*  
**Location:** Room 2  

In 2017, the APA Planners4Health program funded a project in Iowa and challenged a collaborative Task Force to identify partners and create a strategic plan focused on providing opportunities for statewide organizations to collaborate and assist communities to enhance physical activity, nutrition and the natural and built environment. This session will share the work of the Task Force through all phases of the project. Those attending will take away ideas on how to build collaborative efforts; how to activate communities to improve the health of community members and how to sustain those efforts through time and leadership changes. The session will also provide key elements of the Strategic Plan and share how Planning Healthy Iowa Communities will move forward to help communities make healthy choices the easy choices.

1:00 pm—2:15 pm  
**DRONES AND PLANNING**  
**Speaker:** Shawn O'Shea, *Planner and Client Service Manager, MSA Professional Services*  
Kurt Elder, *Geographic Information Systems Analyst, Lincoln Urban Development Department*  
David Ross, *Systems Specialist I I Remote Pilot, Lincoln Parks & Recreation Department*  
**Location:** Room 3  

Drones and Planning will cover a wide array of perspectives in a short time. Presenter and Community Development Specialist/Drone pilot, Shawn O'Shea along with the City of Lincoln, Nebraska's David Ross and Kurt Elder, interviewed academia, air traffic controls and an agriculture operation for good measure to further inform this presentation. They will cover types of drones, uses of drones in Planning from both public and private view point, and interject a small technical review of how acquired data is manipulated and analyzed. Lastly, time permitting, they will take questions, provide links to all recorded interviews used to compile this presentation and invite the group to join a quick drone display outside pending FFA approval.
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2017

1:00 pm—2:15 pm
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SMALL TOWN AMERICA
Speaker: Chad Nabity, AICP, Planning Director, Hall County Regional Planning Commission
Keith Marvin, AICP, President, Marvin Planning Consultants
Location: Room 6

Join fellow planners to discuss economic development strategies. Explore the small town or rural area planner’s role and share realistic tips on establishing effective economic development for America’s diverse small towns and rural areas.

This is a reprisal of a session presented at the 2017 National Planning Conference in New York and is intended to be presented to several other Chapters in the future.

1:00 pm—4:00 pm
REAL-TIME TRANSIT PLANNING: REMIXING DUBUQUE’S PUBLIC TRANSIT SYSTEM
Speaker: Candace Eudaley– Loebach, Transit Manager, City of Dubuque Transit Division—The Jule
Dan Fox, Senior Planner, East Central Intergovernmental Association
Location: Meet at the front doors of the Grand River Center

Workshop participants will take part in a real-time transit planning exercise to expand urban transit service in Dubuque. This mobile workshop will include: orientation to Remix transit planning software and the Jule Transit system, riding public transit during regular service hours, and then assisting Jule Transit employees with planning, testing, and evaluating potential expansion alternatives for cost and demographic impacts. Participants will create a visual representation of the proposed service changes that can be used by Jule Transit to engage with the community.

* Tablet or laptop required.

2:15 pm—2:30 pm
BREAK
SUCCESSFUL DOWNTOWN PLANNING
Speaker: Cory Scott, Planner, RDG Planning & Design
David Collins, Executive Director, Hubbard County Regional Economic Development Corporation
Brennan Kane, Director of Community and Economic Development, City of Waupaca

Location: Room 1

Plan a trip to Park Rapids and Waupaca. Park Rapids is known as the gateway to the Mississippi River Headwaters in Minnesota, while Waupaca is known for being a go-to spot near the Chain O’ Lakes in Wisconsin. Both cities initiated a downtown plan to guide public investments and partnerships. The results of the Park Rapids Plan have been fully realized and continue to evolve since 2007. Waupaca’s downtown plan was just adopted in 2017 and has committed over $5 million for its implementation. Learn about the challenges facing both communities from the simple step of agreeing to do the plan and finding the resources and partnerships to take action.

HEALTHY PLANNING: MIDWEST CASE STUDIES
Speaker: Mary Rose Corrigan, RN, Public Health Specialist, City of Dubuque
Eric Van Buskirk, Associate Planner, City of Champaign
Patrice Lambert, RN, MSN, Executive Director, Dubuque County Health Department

Location: Room 2

This moderated discussion will look at Midwest case studies in the City of Dubuque and Dubuque County, Iowa and Champaign County, Illinois that successfully used community participation, health care partnerships, GIS-based demographic analysis to integrate public health and community plans for urban and rural local governments. The session will review how planners and city/county planning departments can assist health departments and/or organizations with Community Health Needs Assessments and Health Improvement Plans.

UPDATING SIGN REGULATIONS POST REED V GILBERT
Speaker: Wendy Moeller, AICP, Principal/Owner, Compass Point Planning

Location: Room 3

Everything we thought we knew about regulating signage was changed in June 2015 with the SCOTUS ruling on the Reed v. Town of Gilbert (AZ) case. Since then, communities have struggled to understand the impact of how they regulate signage under the content-neutral mandate of the case. The focus of this session will be on considerations communities should take when updating their sign regulations and some best practices that are in place across the country.
SELECTING A CONSULTANT: PLAYING THE DATING GAME

Speaker:  
Jeffrey B. Ray, AICP, Planning Department Manager, JEO Consulting Group  
Christopher Shires, AICP, Principal, Confluence, Inc.  
Naomi Hamlett, AICP, Economic Development Coordinator, City of Des Moines

Location: Room 6

Is hiring a consultant like being a contestant on “The Dating Game”? In this session modeled after the game show with the “city” and “consultants” are screened from each other’s views, the “city” will have the opportunity to ask three questions and then choose their “date” (or consultant). The questions are drawn from real experiences from planners in the public and private sectors. While the format is light-hearted, the audience should take away: 1) what is necessary in an RFP for the city and consultant, 2) tips on evaluating the submittals and interviews; and what are the planner’s ethical responsibilities.

BREAK

REDEVELOPMENT FROM PLANS TO ACTION

Speaker:  
David Wilwerding, AICP, Community Development Director, City of Johnston  
Christopher Shires, AICP, Principal, Confluence, Inc.  
Adam Plagge, Economic Development Manager, City of Johnston

Location: Room 1

Lessons on how cities can effectively plan and shape the redevelopment of key underutilized corridors. This session will provide a history on the City of Johnston’s planning and redevelopment efforts for the northern Merle Hay Road corridor and the strategies the City has used in working with land-owners, the community and developers to identify a new vision for the corridor. Presenters will share the land assembly strategies, design standards, incentives and other implementation tools the City has used over the last ten years to encourage private investment and what has been successful vs what is being adapted to meet the evolving economic realities.
4:00 pm—4:45 pm  
BEE BRANCH FOOD FOREST: A DUBUQUE EXAMPLE OF COLLABORATIONS THAT FOSTER INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY PROJECTS  

Speaker:  Courtney Long, Program Coordinator, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach  
Cori Burbach, Assistant City Manager, City of Dubuque  

Location:  Room 2  
This presentation will review how the City of Dubuque, and the Dubuque Eats Well Coalition worked with the Iowa State University Community Food Systems program to create and develop community food projects around the city. Specifically, the presentation will discuss the city of Dubuque was involved in the coalition and the development of the Bee Branch Food Forest, and how the city sees local foods fitting in with their community development strategy. The presentation will conclude with remarks and discussion with the Iowa State Community Design Lab about the sign and project design for Bee Branch.

4:00 pm—5:30 pm  
AICP PLANNING ETHICS FORUM  

Speaker:  Wendy Moeller, APA Region IV Director  

Location:  Room 3  
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. Attendees will break up for small group discussions on separate ethical scenarios and then reconvene to share their findings with the session group. This session qualifies for the Certification Maintenance ethics hours for AICP Planners.

4:00 pm—4:45 pm  
YOU THINK YOU’RE SOL-SMART: A CASE STUDY  

Speaker:  Charlie Kuester, Planner, City of Ames  
Stephanie Lientz, AICP, Planner II, Linn County  

Location:  Room 6  
Ames and Linn County were recently designated Silver SolSmart communities for their efforts to reduce regulatory hurdles and review time for the installation of solar panels. The presentation will describe the collaborative process involving zoning, inspections, and the electric utility. The case study approach will describe what drove the interest in the SolSmart program for each community, what procedural or regulatory changes were implemented to reach the designation, and what the current process is. Ames and Linn County will also summarize the successes of solar implementation and their other renewable energy initiatives. Attendees will learn how SolSmart can provide guidance on obtaining a SolSmart designation for their communities based upon a national checklist of best practices.
4:45 pm—5:00 pm  BREAK

5:00 pm—5:45 pm  CONNECTING WATERSHEDS: ECONOMIC RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIPS, AND PROJECTS

Speaker:   Eric Schmechel, Urban Conservationist, Dubuque SWCD
           Dean Mattoon, Engineering Tech, City of Dubuque

Location:  Room 1

In 2012, the political jurisdictions in the Catfish Creek Watershed (Cities of Dubuque, Ashbury, Peosta, Dubuque County, Dubuque Soil and Water Conservation District) formed a Watershed Management Authority (WMA) Board. Water quality and flooding events continued to be a challenge throughout the watershed and this board was formed to begin the task of assessing all land values that impact the watershed. A comprehensive watershed management plan was completed in 2015 highlighting more than 100 million dollars’ worth of conservation projects throughout the watershed. This ecological plan will serve as the “roadmap” for the WMA board as implementation begins in 2017. Eric Schmechel and Dean Mattoon will present on how the collaboration amongst the political jurisdictions led to an integrated watershed approach to begin improving water quality and reduce flooding.

5:00 pm—5:45 pm  HISTORIC PRESERVATION: CARROTS AND STICKS

Speaker:   Jeff Hintz, CNU-A, Planner, City of Cedar Rapids
           Anne Russett, AICP, Planner, City of Cedar Rapids

Location:  Room 2

This session will cover both the carrots and sticks approach to preservation. Specifically, we will discuss recently adopted regulations related to preservation and a new funding program. This session will outline lessons learned from creating rules for demolition and historic review processes both inside and outside of historic districts. It will also cover our approach to outreach and how we balanced a variety of stakeholder interests, including other City departments, the development community, and preservationists. The City of Cedar Rapids also adopted a funding program called the Historic Rehabilitation Program that helps to bridge the financial gap of having historical work done on a home, which can be more expensive. The session will cover how we developed and marketed this program, and lessons learned in the first year of implementation.
5:00 pm—5:45 pm  
(0.75 CM)  
**AICP EXAM PREP AND AICP CANDIDATE PROGRAM**  
Speaker: David Wilwerding, AICP, *Community Development Director, City of Johnston*  
Location: Room 6  

Planners interested in seeking AICP certification should plan to attend this session where an overview of the AICP application and exam process will be provided. This will include how to submit a successful application, studying and taking for the exam. Recommendations and resources will also be shared from AICP members who recently passed the exam. New this year, this session will also provide information about AICP’s new AICP Candidate program.

6:00 pm—8:00 pm  
**RECEPTION AND AWARDS CEREMONY AT NOVELTY IRON WORKS**  
Location: Novelty Iron Works, 333 E 10th St, Dubuque, IA 52001  

Awards program beginning at 6:30 pm. Light appetizers and two drink tickets will be provided. MSA has invited all conference attendees to their office at 400 Ice Harbor Drive for a post-reception party.
7:30 am—8:00 am  
ULTIMATE BREAKFAST BUFFET

8:00 am—9:15 am  
FORT DODGE: BOUNCING BACK FROM 3 DECADES OF DEVASTATING DECLINE

Speaker: Chad Schaffer, Director of Business Affairs, Community Growth, and Engineering, City of Fort Dodge  
Wade Greiman, P.E., Transportation Business Unit Leader, Snyder & Associates, Inc.  
Mindy Moore, AICP, Planner, Snyder & Associates, Inc.

Location: Room 1

Planning and engineering resilience into river cities is becoming increasingly important. Fort Dodge has taken a holistic approach to resilience—by considering the economic, environmental, and social impacts of capital and community projects. The community has begun to overcome significant job losses and population decline in the 1970s and 1980s by leveraging local resources for growth. This session will explore how the City is using spatial planning and infrastructure engineering for natural disaster mitigation to reduce future economic losses and recovery costs, bringing about economic growth through leveraging local indigenous resources and encouraging multi-industry cooperation, using ecological management to restore natural systems and reduce flooding, using grant funding and capital improvement planning to promote the City’s fiscal health, promoting economic growth through better transportation design, and promoting community health and wellbeing with trails planning and community gardens.

8:00 am—9:15 am  
ISU PLANNING OUTREACH: A PANEL DISCUSSION

Speaker: Francis Owusu, PhD, Chair and Professor, ISU Department of Community and Regional Planning  
Timothy Borich, PhD., Associate Professor, Iowa State University  
Jane Rongerude, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Community and Regional Planning, Iowa State University  
Gary Taylor, JD, Associate Professor and Interim Director, ISU Extension and Outreach Community Economic Development  
Sara Hamideh, PhD, Assistant Professor, Iowa State University

Location: Room 2

Professors from Iowa State University’s Department Community and Regional Planning will lead a discussion on CRP’s current models for community-university partnerships within the studio learning environment. For graduate students, this means long term engagement with the City of Des Moines; for the undergrads, it involves working with extension field staff who provide local knowledge and the potential for selected students to lead the implementation strategy in the summer. For urban planning methods, it means using communities as labs in order to provide authentic problems for educating future planners.
PUBLIC PRIVATE STEWARDSHIP: THE FUTURE OF RESILIENCE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY

Speaker: Jason Stangland, PLA, Principal Landscape Architect, SmithGroupJJR
Cassie Goodwin, PE, LEED BD+C, Associate Civil Engineer, SmithGroupJJR

Location: Room 3

The threat of deep federal budget cuts has the potential to shift responsibility for environmental stewardship, green infrastructure, and sustainable planning from a centralized, agency-supported model of regulation and research to a localized and disparate approach. Adapting to this transition would require a new model of self-regulating, creative partnerships committed to advancing regional knowledge and protecting the ecological, economic and societal health for communities throughout the Midwest.

In May of this year, SmithGroupJJR asked a panel of agency leaders, environmental advocates, ecological economists, and think tank groups what they see for the future of green infrastructure and sustainable planning. This presentation will share findings from our discussions and present trends and forecasts for the changing landscape of sustainable planning.

THE CLIVE GREENBELT: CLIVE’S SOCIAL, RECREATIONAL CORRIDOR AND REGIONAL RESOURCE

Speaker: Ryan Peterson, PLA, ASLA, RDG Planning & Design
Todd Seaman, Leisure Services Director, City of Clive

Location: Room 1

In 2015, the City of Clive undertook a significant eighteen-month planning effort to rethink the role(s) of their greenbelt. This interactive presentation will reflect on the approach, plan and results through the lens of seven distinct “capitals”: natural, cultural, built, social, human, financial and political. Attendees will gain insight into the public input process, applying social science to inform priorities and quantifying public health benefits of significant community assets. In addition, the presentation will discuss how a community’s brand can be used to define places, connect residents and build capacity for public support.
9:30 am—10:45 am
(1.25 CM)

HOW STREET DESIGN SHAPES BEHAVIOUR AND REFLECTS VALUES & ADVANCING TRANSPORTATION CHOICES IN DES MOINES

Speaker: Brian Willham, PE, PTOE, Senior Traffic Engineer, City of Des Moines
        Mike Armstrong, Associate Transportation Planner, Des Moines Area MPO

Location: Room 2

The presentation will be a discussion of current Transportation Planning efforts in Des Moines that are identifying opportunities to enhance transportation modes for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users. The discussion will include partnerships with Public Health interests and a Pilot Project that was developed to convert 7 blocks of a downtown street into a multi-modal corridor. The Pilot includes shorter pedestrian crossings, enhanced transit stops, protected bike lanes, and narrower / fewer traffic lanes to slow vehicular traffic.

Participants will gain an understanding of how such efforts can happen in their communities, who the appropriate champions should be, multi-modal design considerations, and lessons that we are learning as we implement our Pilot Project.

Street design is often seen as intimidating and too technical for community champions to fully engage in. So how can we educate and empower people to participate in street design decisions and help communities achieve their broader goals? This session illustrates a framework for looking at street design through two concepts: (1) design shapes behavior and (2) design reflects values. The Des Moines Area MPO has used this framework when working with partners and members of the public to highlight key concepts of street design in non-technical, accessible language. This session will cover messages and techniques the MPO has used in advancing this discussion over the past few years.

9:30 am—10:45 am
(1.50 CM LAW)

AICP PLANNING LAW

Speaker: Gary Taylor, AICP, Interim Director, Community & Economic Development Program, Iowa State University Extension & Outreach
         Brian Ohm, Professor, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Location: Room 3

This session will highlight the significant cases related to land use decided by the state courts across the upper Midwest and federal courts over the past year, and significant legislative activity related to land use in Wisconsin and Iowa.
11:00 am—12:00 pm  KEYNOTE: DIVERSITY IN THE HEARTLAND

Speaker: Bob Blanchard, AICP, Project Manager, City of Des Moines Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance Project
Mike Ludwig, AICP, Planning Administrator, City of Des Moines Community Development Department

Location: Salon C / D

Learn how the City of Des Moines addresses diversity in their comprehensive plan with a special discussion of discovering how diverse the City is through a photographic narrative of the City’s varied religious communities.
Mayor Buol is a Dubuque native and a 30-year retired employee of John Deere Dubuque Works. Since 2002, he has been Director of the Landscaping & Grounds Department at the University of Dubuque. Mayor Buol holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a double major in business and marketing from the University of Dubuque, where he also completed graduate coursework toward a Master of Arts in Communication. Mayor Buol and his wife, Deborah, are parents of four children and grandparents of 10.

During his mayoral campaign in 2005, Mayor Buol’s platform was based on “engaging citizens as partners,” and what he heard from thousands of citizens was a consistent theme surrounding water quality, recycling, green space, public transit, cultural vitality, accessibility, and downtown revitalization. In 2006, during the first City Council goal-setting session following his election, Mayor Buol proposed and received the full support of his council colleagues to focus on sustainability as a City top priority, stating “cities that get out in front on sustainability will have competitive economic advantages in the future.” Sustainability has been a top priority every year since his election. This leadership paved the way for the creation of Sustainable Dubuque, a citizen-engaged process to define sustainability for our community and create a national model for cities under 200,000 in population. In 2009, Mayor Buol was instrumental in the launch of “Smarter Sustainable Dubuque,” a unique public/private partnership between the City of Dubuque and IBM Research, the division of IBM responsible for its “Smarter Planet” campaign. The project was initiated in September 2009 when the City of Dubuque and IBM announced their intentions to make Dubuque one of the first “smarter” sustainable cities in the U.S.

Jason Roberts is originator of the Better Block project, founder of the Oak Cliff Transit Authority, co-founder of both the Art Conspiracy and Bike Friendly Oak Cliff, and candidate for U.S. Congress. In 2006, Jason formed the nonprofit organization, Oak Cliff Transit Authority, to revive the Dallas streetcar system, and later spearheaded the city’s effort in garnering a $23 million dollar TIGER stimulus grant from the FTA to help reintroduce a modern streetcar system to Dallas. In 2010, Jason organized a series of Better Block projects, taking blighted blocks with vacant properties in Southern Dallas and converting them into temporary walkable districts with pop-up businesses, bike lanes, cafe seating, and landscaping. The project has now become an international movement occurring everywhere from Melbourne, Australia to Tehran, Iran, and has been featured in the New York Times, Dwell magazine, TEDTalks, and National Public Radio. Jason was given a Champions of Change award from the White House in 2012 and his consulting firm, Team Better Block, was showcased in the U.S. Pavilion at the Venice Biennale.
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Bob Blanchard has been a practicing planner with positions in Oregon, Washington, Florida, Colorado, Wyoming and Iowa. His current position is Project Manager for the development of the new Comprehensive Plan and rewrite of the Zoning Ordinance for the City of Des Moines. Previously he was a founding partner of the Orion Planning Group consulting firm, owned his own consulting business, served as Community Development Director in Grand Junction, CO and Current Planning Director in Fort Collins, CO. Bob received his undergraduate degree from Washington State University and did graduate studies at Western Washington University. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and has served as Treasurer and President Colorado Chapter of the American Planning Association and as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Chapter Presidents’ Council of the American Planning Association. Blanchard is also a professional freelance photographer. His photography has been published by Drake University, Des Moines University, DSM Magazine, the Fort Collins Coloradoan, the Des Moines Register and Patagonia. He recently completed his first book – A Spectrum of Faith: Religions of the World In America’s Heartland.

Michael Ludwig, AICP, is the Planning Administrator for the City of Des Moines. Michael has over 20 years of experience in city planning, zoning, urban development, growth management, affordable housing and grant administration. Prior to moving to Des Moines in 2001, Michael held positions as the Planning Director for the City of Marion, Iowa; City Planner for the City of Fort Collins, Colorado; and Housing Analyst for the City of Sioux City, Iowa. Michael earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Community and Regional Planning from Iowa State University and his Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Iowa.
Ose Akinlotan is a Planning Technician with the City of Dubuque. Ose serves as the Assistant Project Manager for Imagine Dubuque. Ose uses interpersonal skills and community involvement to leverage participation for planning initiatives, fostering community representation. She championed the logistics for outreach and input efforts for Imagine Dubuque. Ose has considerable experience working with Geographic Information Systems and has been with the city since 2015. Ose works closely with annexation planning and supporting many of the community planning efforts of the Planning Services Department. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from The Morgan State University and a Master of Arts in Geography and Environmental Planning from Towson University.

Michael Armstrong is an Associate Transportation Planner who specializes in bicycle and pedestrian mobility, transportation demand management and multimodal transportation planning. He oversees the Complete Streets Initiative, manages the SmartTrips program and regional best practices series, and staffs the Bicycle and Pedestrian Roundtable. Mike obtained his master’s in urban and regional planning degree from Portland State University with a focus in transportation planning.

Tim Borich, PhD has been involved with the study and practice of community development for over 40 years. He currently serves as a part time Associate Professor in the Department of Community and Regional Planning at Iowa State University and is teaching a number or outreach courses and studios. He recently retired as the ISU Extension and Outreach Director for Community Economic Development, and as the Associate Dean for Research and Outreach at the ISU College of Design. He has received and administered grants from such organizations as the Farm Foundation, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the USDA, HUD, and the Federal Highway Administration. Tim’s national awards for his community outreach and research include the Federal Highway Administrations Environmental Excellence Award for Excellence in Environmental Research, the Excellence in Partnerships Award from the University Economic Development Association, and the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals Award for Community Development Distinguished Service.

Cori Burbach has been the Sustainable Community Coordinator for the City of Dubuque, Iowa since 2009. As the Sustainable Community Coordinator, Cori is responsible for implementation of the community’s Sustainability Strategic Plan, public education and engagement, local business support, grant application and administration, performance measurement, and analysis and implementation of sustainable practices for City departments. Most recently, Cori led a community engagement process to develop a new Resilient Community Advisory Commission, which she now staffs. She serves in leadership roles in the Urban Sustainability Directors Network and is a member of the Sustainability Committee of the International City/County Management Association. Cori received her BA in Public Administration from the University of Northern Iowa in 2005 and her Masters in Public Administration from the University of Delaware in 2007.

Laura Carstens has served as Planning Services Manager for the City of Dubuque since 1989, with responsibilities for development services, city planning, and historic preservation. She has led creation and updates of Dubuque’s Comprehensive Plan, a major overhaul of Dubuque’s historic preservation program, creation of a unified sustainable development code, and development of architectural guidelines. Previously, she was Economic Development Director for the City of Maquoketa, Iowa, after serving as Community Renewal Coordinator for the City of Decatur, Illinois. She holds a B.S. in Environmental Studies from Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois, and an M.A. in Environmental Planning from University of Illinois - Springfield.
Erin Cigliano, AICP is a Senior Associate and Designer with Teska Associates, Inc. Erin has been with Teska since 2005 where she focuses on creative outreach, public engagement and project marketing. She is a strategic planner and multidisciplinary designer with an eye for innovation and pixel perfection. She uses her experience in planning, marketing and interactive design to creatively engage and inspire. Her abilities span from information design and data visualization to online outreach, in-person workshop facilitation and hands-on mindmapping. By merging the application of engagement mediums with creative thinking, Erin builds project momentum and optimizes outreach efforts to ensure the “community voice” is represented and celebrated via inspiring methods.

Marcus Coenen is an Associate Transportation Planner with experience preparing comprehensive plans, transportation master plans, corridor studies, feasibility studies, environmental documents, and conducting public participation. Additionally, Marcus has experience in public transit operations and planning. He earned a master’s degree in urban and regional planning and a bachelor’s degree in history, both from the University of Iowa. Marcus is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and is a certified Professional Transportation Planner.

David W. Collins, a native of Nebraska and rabid Husker fan, has served as Executive Director of the Hubbard County Regional Economic Development Commission, with an office in Park Rapids, since moving to Minnesota in June of 2006. Previously Collins managed Chambers and/or development organization in Clear Lake (Iowa); Pocatello (Idaho); Fulton (Missouri), and the Associated Builders & Contractors of Nebraska (Lincoln). Also, he held positions with the Nebraska Legislature (Legislative Analyst), Nebraska Republican Party (Political Director) and the Dawson County (Lexington, NE) Clerk’s Office (Deputy County Clerk). Collins attended the University of Nebraska - Lincoln, the Institutes for Organizational Management and the Institutes for Advanced Management plus several leadership programs.

Jill Connors is the Economic Development Project Coordinator with the City of Dubuque. A former high school teacher, Ms. Connors began working for a local developer in 2008 where her main focus was historic tax credit policy. Developing and coordinating a statewide coalition (Smart Growth Development), her team approach led to an annual increase of $30 million in the State of Iowa’s Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit program during the 2009 legislative session. Connors joined the Economic Development Department at the City of Dubuque, Iowa, in 2014 where she is currently a Project Coordinator, generally drafting and coordinating development agreements, coordinating urban renewal district formation, as well as spending a portion of her time administering several EPA Brownfields grants. Connors holds a B.A. degree from the University of Northern Iowa, has completed coursework with the Council of Development Finance Agencies, is a graduate of Leadership Dubuque, sits on the Iowa Women Lead Change (IWLC) Dubuque Steering Committee, and is currently working on her Masters in Public Administration at Drake University.

Mary Rose Corrigan, RN has worked for the City of Dubuque Health Services Department since 1985 and in her current role as Public Health Specialist since 1989. She has been involved in the delivery of many public health programs and services, along with initiating many new programs and policies, including a childhood lead poisoning prevention program and the Crescent Community Health Center. Since 2001, she has been involved with community emergency preparedness education and planning, including pandemic influenza planning. She serves on several community based organization boards and also hosts nursing and public health students for public health experience and internships. She received her BSN from Mt. Mercy College and her MSN from Clarke University.
Jono Cowgill is a city planner who has more than 10 years of experience leading community-based engagement, planning, and research work for a wide array of public, private, and non-profit organizations in the Twin Cities and in San Francisco. His current work is focused on designing comprehensive planning processes that lift up the voices of people traditionally less involved in planning efforts. He also is passionate about planning for public spaces, and in his free time enjoys telling people about the unique benefits of parklets.

Rob Davis brings 30 years of professional civil engineering experience to his position as Cedar Rapids Flood Control Program manager. Prior to joining the City of Cedar Rapids, Davis worked for 11 years in the private sector doing consulting work as a civil engineer and project manager for municipalities, park districts, airports, railway companies, transit facilities, and development companies. He began his career with the City of Cedar Rapids in 1998 as Project Manager and moved into Interim Engineering Operations Manager in 1999 and then full time Engineering Operations Manager in 2000, where he oversaw some of the City’s largest infrastructure projects including roads, bridges, storm water and sanitary sewer management projects. After the Flood of 2008 damaged more than 1,000 city blocks and more than 300 public buildings, Davis managed flood-damaged assessments and the reconstruction and mitigation of City facilities from future floods. His work included the post flood development, including the Cedar Rapids Convention Center and Hotel. He has served in his current role for the past two years, where he leads the planning, design, and construction of the $625 million permanent flood control project for both sides of the Cedar River. Davis is licensed as a Professional Engineer in Iowa and holds Envision Sustainability Professional accreditation. He earned a Master of Business Administration from Rutgers University, a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the New Jersey Institute of Technology, and a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Penn State University.

Kurt Elder is currently a Geographic Information Systems Analyst with the City of Lincoln's Urban Development Department. He has been a certified CDBG administrator and currently has both his GISP and AICP certifications. In his private practice lnforamtionArt, Kurt is passionate about neighborhood development and engaging communities through technology. For seven years he has cohosted a radio program titled “Our Street” where they cover neighborhood issues, policies, engagement technology and politics. You are invited to learn more at KZUM.org. Kurt received his graduate degrees in Community & Regional Planning & Leadership Development from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln & pursuing a doctorate in Geography.

Clyde Evans, a native of Illinois, graduated from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana with a degree in Urban and Regional Studies and has over three decades of experience as a city planner and economic developer. Clyde has worked for the City of West Des Moines since 1991 as the Director of Community and Economic Development. Before that, Clyde was the Economic Development Director for the South Central Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission in Salem, Illinois; the Assistant Planning Director of Simi Valley, California; and served as the Planning Director in Palmdale, California.

Matt Flynn is the Senior Planning Manager for the City of Davenport. A native of nearby Bettendorf, Iowa, he has been "hanging out" in the Village for over 40 years. He was the project manager for the recently adopted Village of East Davenport Master Plan. As staff liaison to the City's Historic Preservation Commission and Design Review Board, he works with these bodies to achieve quality new development in the Village consistent with the Master Plan and design guidelines.
Dan Fox is a Senior Planner with East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA) in Dubuque, Iowa. He has been at ECIA since 2010. In his position at ECIA, Dan works with communities to plan and implement federal-aid transportation projects. Dan also works with communities on a variety of activities including comprehensive plans, zoning codes, housing needs assessments, annexation studies, and economic impact analyses. Dan received his Bachelor’s Degree in Geography from the University of Iowa in 2008 and a Master’s Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Iowa in 2010.

Cassie Goodwin, PE, LEED BC+C is an associate civil engineer and project manager at SmithGroupJJR. She has over 13 years’ experience as a civil engineer with a specific focus on stormwater management and green infrastructure planning, watershed modeling, and waterfront and marina design. She has worked with a number of municipal clients to help develop and implement stormwater and flood management techniques as part of larger community-wide green infrastructure planning efforts. Cassie is co-author for the update to the American Society of Civil Engineering Manual of Engineering Practice 50, Planning and Design Guidelines for Small Craft Harbors. She also wrote “A Holistic Approach to Sustainable Shoreline Design” which appeared in Marina Dock Age, May, 2015. Cassie has been a member of the Wisconsin River Alliance since 2009, including two years as Chair of the Board of Directors.

Wade A. Greiman, P.E. is a licensed Professional Engineer in Iowa, Nebraska and Wisconsin with over 22 years of experience in completing and managing location studies, feasibility analyses and design for many multidisciplinary projects ranging from neighborhood revitalization plans to heavy highway improvements projects. Wade develops funding applications, technical memoranda, and environmental documentation as they pertain to planning and improving transportation corridors. He is intimately familiar with planning, design and construction of complete streets and livable communities. Wade prides himself on ensuring the project flows with effective communication. His Project Management approach includes the development of a work plan at the project’s beginning and communicating that plan with the client and other stakeholders so there are no surprises. Wade’s motivation comes from past project successes and constantly working on improving efficiencies within the study/design process and finding funding to accomplish his clients’ project needs. Wade’s strengths are his ability to work with multiple stakeholders, listen to input, and design a plan to address the needs of those stakeholders.

Sara Hamideh, PhD joined the Iowa State University faculty in 2015 receiving her Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Sciences from Texas A&M University. Sara has been teaching an intermediate undergraduate that has taken on an active outreach component under her guidance. Her research interests included disaster mitigation and disaster recovery planning. Sara has just received a $60,000 sub-award from the Colorado State University’s Center for Risk-Based Community Resilience Planning to further her research in housing recovery modeling and planning community resiliency from disasters.

Naomi Hamlett, AICP, is an Economic Development Coordinator with the City of Des Moines. Prior to joining the City of Des Moines in March 2016, Naomi was a Planner for the City of West Des Moines and also worked for a consulting firm in suburban Detroit. Naomi has a bachelor’s degree in History from the University of Iowa and a Master’s degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Michigan State University. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) and the Iowa Chapter of the American Planning Association, currently serving as Vice President of the Chapter.
Jeff Hintz, CNU-A has worked as a Planner with the City of Cedar Rapids for four years. Prior to joining the City of Cedar Rapids, Jeff worked as a City Planner for the City of San Angelo, Texas for two and a half years and has experience with comprehensive planning, land use, zoning and subdivision code administration, development, historic preservation, GIS, and code writing and administration. Jeff has an Bachelor of Science in Geography from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point with a minor in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and a Master of Urban Planning from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Eric Holthaus serves as the City of Cedar Rapids' Sustainability Coordinator. He works to build a culture of sustainability in the workplace and into all of the city's operations. Core to this effort is approaching city decisions from a triple bottom line perspective, which seeks to identify linkages and synergies between economic, social, and environmental health. This triple bottom line approach will be highlighted in the city's forthcoming municipal sustainability plan and continuing work with the community.

Before coming to Cedar Rapids, Eric worked as the University of Iowa's Sustainability Program Manager, overseeing the institution's 60 percent waste diversion target and sustainability outreach programs. He graduated from the University of Iowa with a degree in geography and earned a master's degree in urban planning from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. Before working for the University of Iowa, Eric was the Energy and Waste Steward at Luther College, focusing on energy and waste operations and student engagement.

Mike Hoffman is a Vice President with Teska Associates, Inc., a community planning and landscape architectural firm with offices in Evanston and Plainfield, Illinois. Mike has lead planning and design teams to create over 25 Comprehensive Plans, numerous downtown and corridor plans, and implementation tools such as zoning and other development regulations. He has managed the creation of over 20 TIF Districts and assisted municipalities in the review, negotiation and approval of numerous redevelopment projects.

Mike is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, a registered Professional Landscape Architect, and a member of Lambda Alpha International, a Land Economics Society. He has degrees from the University of Illinois in Landscape Architecture and a MBA from Texas A&M University. With over 30 years of experience, Mike has lost most of his hair but still manages to keep a strong and expanding client base.

David Johnson serves as the Assistant Planner for the City of Dubuque. David is the local project manager for Imagine Dubuque. He has over 17 years' experience in community planning, the last 11 of which have been in Dubuque. He works closely with comprehensive, master, and strategic planning efforts. David also supports the City of Dubuque Historic Preservation program and dedicates considerable effort toward community development and downtown revitalization initiatives. David holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geography from the University of Iowa and will complete his Master's degree in Public Administration in 2018.

Maurice Jones was named Economic Development Director for the City of Dubuque in 2013, with specific responsibilities for economic development, downtown redevelopment, riverfront development, art and culture, and the transit and parking divisions. Jones was previously a managing partner with Paratus Scientia, LLC, a strategic organizational design and development firm. Prior to that, Jones was bureau chief/director of planning and development for Cook County, Illinois. From 1999 to 2008, Jones was economic development officer for the Louisville Economic Development Authority, the development agency for the Louisville, Kentucky metropolitan government. Prior to his time in Louisville, Jones worked for the City of Shelbyville, Kentucky, as community and economic development coordinator.
Brennan Kane joined the City of Waupaca in July 2013 as Director of Community and Economic Development. He is responsible for oversight of the department, including developing the City’s Strategic Plan. A native of Green Bay, WI he holds a double Master’s in Architecture and Urban Planning from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where he also completed his undergraduate degrees in the same fields. Brennan has over 12 years’ experience in municipal planning and development. Prior to his current position Brennan worked at the Village of Mount Pleasant.

Barbara Kloth, AICP has served as a planner from the neighborhood level all the way to the regional scale, most recently as a senior planner in the Laramie County, Wyoming, Planning Department. A previous position with the City of Ames, Iowa, and internships at an engineering firm and a regional planning organization add to the breadth of her perspective and understanding. Barbara’s knowledge base includes rural communities, urban-rural interfaces, downtown redevelopment, site planning, and master planning. Public engagement is where Barbara particularly distinguishes herself. Her community connection and commitment extend to her volunteer work, including the Greater Cheyenne Greenway Foundation and the Cheyenne Downtown Development Authority.

Charlie Kuester has been with Ames for nearly ten years, and has worked as a planner in the public and private sectors since 1992. He obtained a bachelor’s degree in history and political science at the University of Iowa. After living and teaching in Japan for four years, he returned to the University of Iowa to study urban and regional planning. Charlie works on a diverse range of issues with the City of Ames that includes an emphasis on flood plain management, site plan review, rezoning, urban fringe development, and subdivision review.

Patrice Lambert, RN, MSN, has been the Executive Director of the Dubuque County Health Department since 2010. She plans and directs programs that address the functions and services necessary to meet the county’s public health needs and concerns. This involves many issues such as coordinating the appropriate disease surveillance methods to diagnose and investigate communicable diseases, planning and implementing health promotion activities and education, and planning for potential hazards. Patrice works collaboratively with the City of Dubuque’s Health Services, Visiting Nurse Association, local hospitals and Dubuque County Board of Health to meet responsibilities and regulations of the public health matters as required by federal and state. She received her BSN from Iowa Wesleyan College and her MSN from the University of Dubuque. Patrice also holds School Administrator and Elementary/Secondary Principalship Certification from the University of Northern Iowa.

Aaron Lande is the Operations & Member Relations Manager for STAR Communities, a non-profit organization advancing a national framework to evaluate and certify sustainable communities in North America. Aaron works with communities across the country, introducing them to the STAR Community Rating System and assisting them through the certification process. He also manages the STAR Affiliates program, bringing in outside expertise to support STAR Communities and its community members, and develops the organization's educational offerings and training programs. Previously he worked as the Sustainability Cities Specialist at the US Green Building Council and as a Legislative Assistant for Congresswoman Darlene Hooley. Aaron holds a BA in Political Science from Carleton College and a MA in Urban and Regional Planning from Portland State University.
Stephanie Lientz, AICP, has been a Planner with the Linn County, Iowa Planning & Development Department since 2013. Her work for the County includes comprehensive planning, subdivision review, rezoning, and site plan review. Ms. Lientz received her Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies and Master of Science in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Iowa.

Dan LoBianco is the Executive Director of Dubuque Main Street, a not for profit 501 (c) 3 organization dedicated to the development and ongoing support of downtown Dubuque as the place to live, work & play. The organization serves eight downtown districts. Dan has been with Dubuque Main Street since 1998. His dedication for the program has been noted on not only the local but national level. The Main Street movement, led by the National Main Street Center, involves more than 1,000 community programs throughout the country and has transformed the way communities think about the revitalization of their historic downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts. It has helped put historic preservation back in the community revitalization conversation. Dubuque Main Street has been a part of this tradition from the beginning, and is celebrated as the longest-running urban Main Street program in the country.

Candace Eudaley-Loebach has been the Transit Manager for the City of Dubuque since July 2013. Prior to her role as Transit Manager, she worked as the Assistant Executive Director for a Regional Council of Governments and in that role, worked heavily with the previous Transit Manager on transit planning, communications, and grant-writing. Her early career was in regional economic development, sustainability, transportation planning focused on bike and pedestrian and safe routes to schools, and her first transportation-related project was doing traffic counts for Dubuque’s East-West Corridor Study back in 2008. Candace has an undergrad degree in Economics and Politics from Loras College and a Master’s degree in Community Development with a focus on Economic Analysis and Non-Profit Management from Iowa State University.

Courtney Long is a Program Coordinator with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach in the departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Community and Economic Development. Courtney coordinates the Community Food Systems Program, a three year community process to develop and design local food systems in partnership with communities. This program partners directly with the Community Design Lab and additional departments on Iowa State Campus. She is passionate about community engagement, public health, food access and holistic programming. Courtney has been working with local food systems and design for access to healthy, local and regional foods since 2010 with various appointments and research. Courtney received her Bachelor’s of Landscape Architecture in 2010, Certificate of Healthcare Garden Design in 2010, a MS of Sustainable Agriculture in 2012, Certificate of Integrative Nutrition in 2013, and is currently pursuing a PhD in Sustainable Agriculture from Iowa State.

Dean Mattoon has worked for the City of Dubuque for 15 years, with over a decade involvement in water quality and storm water permitting through the EPA’s MS4 permit for the Clean Water Act. Dean regularly engages the public in water quality topics and never is “too far from a stream!” In his spare time dean sings and plays guitar in several local and regional bands with his wife.

Wendy E. Moeller, AICP, is a principal and owner of Compass Point Planning. She has worked in the planning field since 1996, specializing in comprehensive plans; land use regulations; with special expertise in sign regulations. Her experience comes from working on projects across the United States.

Wendy is currently serving as the Region IV Director for the American Planning Association (covering the Upper Midwest states) and also currently a member of the Board of Directors for the Signa Research Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization focused on research and education related to signage issues. She is also the author of Best Practices in Regulating Temporary Signs.

Mindy Moore, AICP has 17 years of experience as a planner and project manager for numerous projects including trails, on-street bicycling, wayfinding signage, parks, comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances, and development plan review. She has successfully developed concept plans, secured grant funds, tracked project budgets and schedules, and monitored construction. Mindy is skilled in collecting and analyzing data, leading technical and stakeholder committees, and gathering public input to identify goals and priorities for a community. She uses community engagement techniques combined with her knowledge of current design guidelines to develop realistic master plans and concept plans that lead to successful implementation. She’s an effective writer with astute attention to detail, which has enabled her to complete numerous successful grant applications, feasibility studies, master plans, and other written reports.

Deron Muehring has a BA in Physics from St. Cloud State University and an MS in Civil & Environmental Engineering from Marquette University. For the past 19 years, he has been employed as a Civil Engineer with the City of Dubuque focusing primarily on water resource issues. Mr. Muehring has served as the project lead for the multi-phased, $210 million Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project.

Chad Nabity has been the Planning Director for the Hall County Regional Planning Commission since December 1999. The Hall County Planning Commission provides planning services to Hall County, the cities of Grand Island and Wood River, Hall County, and the Villages of Alda, Doniphan and Cairo. Since 2004 he has been the Director of the Grand Island Community Redevelopment Authority as well. He is a professional planner with a Masters of Community and Regional Planning from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. He is currently the Chair of the Small Town and Rural Planning Division of the American Planning Association. He is active in the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Zoning Administrator Affiliate and Immediate President of the Nebraska Planning and Zoning Association (NPZA). Chad has variety of experience in planning issues in Nebraska ranging from: work with the Nebraska Department of Health relative to infectious and communicable disease prevention planning; work with the Nebraska Department of Economic Development researching affordable housing in Nebraska; to experience with county and municipal land use planning in Madison and Hall Counties.
Martha O'Brien joined the Wide River Winery team in 2010 bringing with her over 20 years in the South Florida hospitality industry. As sister to owner/winemaker Dorothy O'Brien her passion for the family business goes back a little further! Currently managing the newest location in the Village of East Davenport, Martha's role is ever expanding and growing.

William O'Brien has been with the Water & Resource Recovery Center since 2007 as Laboratory Technician, Operator, and Assistant Manager. Named Manager in 2016, he is responsible for the operations of the Center, laboratory operations, and the City of Dubuque's Industrial Pretreatment Program. He holds a bachelor of science degree in environmental science from the University of Dubuque. William is a member of the Water Environment Federation and the Iowa Water Environment Association.

Brian Ohm, an attorney, is a professor in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He holds a joint appointment with the University of Wisconsin-Extension where he is the state specialist in planning law. He also holds an affiliate appointment with the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at UW-Madison. Professor Ohm's work focuses on the institutional and legal framework for managing community growth and change. His work lead to the development of the state's comprehensive planning law in 1999 and through the years he has worked with citizens, non-profit organizations, and state and local governments on a variety of initiatives related to sustainable development including purchase of development rights programs, conservation subdivisions, pedestrian-friendly mixed-use development, and wetland protection. He is the author of numerous publications on Wisconsin planning law.

Shawn O'Shea joined MSA Professional Services in January 2012. In his role as a Community Development Specialist, he has been involved in an array of planning projects throughout the Midwest. His experience includes Community/Regional Planning and Design, GIS Analysis and Planning, Comprehensive Planning, Land-use Planning and Public Engagement. He is a certified planner (AICP) and he has both Private Pilot and Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) Airman Certificates. He led the establishment of MSA Aerial Solutions, the outward-facing brand of MSA that provides drone-based imagery and survey data acquisition. It is made up of MSA staff who serve as pilots, surveyors, video editors and marketers.

Francis Owusu, PhD is a professor and chair of the Department of Community and Regional Planning at Iowa State University. He teaches courses on globalization, international development, economic and urban planning, and research and planning methods. He worked as a planner for the State of Minnesota and has research experience in Africa and the U.S. His research in Africa focuses on globalization, development planning, urban economic development, and public sector capacity building. His U.S.-focused research is directed more towards policy and has included developing sustainable development indicators, exploring the relationship between urban development and smart growth, and analyzing the location of ethanol plant in the Midwest.
Ben Peotter, PE is a professional engineer and Supervisor of Brownfield Services with Ayres Associates in Madison, Wisconsin. He’s been involved with environmental remediation and brownfield redevelopment projects nationwide since 2005, and is active in his support of the Wisconsin Brownfield Study Group initiatives. Along with other team members at Ayres, he’s been instrumental in identifying and securing millions of dollars in funding from a variety of local, state, and federal programs to move these brownfield projects through redevelopment that greatly benefits communities. In addition to brownfields projects, his background encompasses solid waste, landfill gas, and renewable energy projects. He’s presented at the National SWANA Landfill Gas Symposium, American Planning Association Upper Midwest Conference, and Wisconsin Solid Waste conference, as well as other state and professional chapter conferences, and has served as a guest instructor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

John T. Peterson is the founder of Peterson Planning Strategies, a community planning and design firm working in long range planning, strategic planning, special studies, development processes, design standards and codes. John is a 1978 graduate of Iowa State University with a B.S. in Engineering Operations, a registered Civil Engineer in the State of Iowa and has been a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners since 1985. Prior to starting his own firm John served in a variety of roles including Planning Director, Community Development Director and Assistant City Manager in Ankeny, Iowa for 35+ years. John is a member of the Urban Land Institute and the American Planning Association. He is currently the Health Liaison for the APA Iowa Chapter. John has a strong interest in connecting community planning and public health and is currently serving on the leadership team of the Active Living Iowa Roundtable and the Planning Healthy Iowa Communities Initiative. He is a member of the Iowa Healthcare Cooperative Obesity and Social Determinants of Health Statewide Strategic Plan Task Forces, Healthy People Healthy Places and the Des Moines Area MPO Bike/Ped Roundtable. John is an AARP Iowa Executive Council member where he serves as the State-wide Livable Communities Leader. John serves as the project manager for the Planning Healthy Iowa Communities Planners4Health project.

Ryan Peterson is a landscape architect with RDG Planning & Design, focusing on connecting people to place through the integration of natural systems. His experience ranges from site development through watershed planning with an emphasis on urban conservation, greenways and parklands restoration. Ryan currently serves on the Catfish Creek Watershed Management Authority and is on the technical committee for the Iowa Stormwater Management Manual.

Gus Psihoyos joined the City of Dubuque Engineering staff in 1977. Psihoyos has held the positions of Civil Engineer, Sanitary Engineer, and Assistant City Engineer before becoming City Engineer in 2005. Psihoyos holds a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from Iowa State University. He also is a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Iowa. Gus is a member of the America Public Works Association (APWA), the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and a member of the Water Environment Federation.

Adam Plagge is the Economic Development Manager for the City of Johnston. In this position Mr. Plagge manages development agreements, economic development initiatives and business attraction for the City. Prior to coming to Johnston, Mr. Plagge worked as the Economic Development Director for Fairfield Economic Development Association for three years. Mr. Plagge holds B.A. in Business Administration from U.N.I. and a M.B.A. and Masters in Urban Planning from The University of Iowa. Plagge is also active in the entrepreneurial community and is a Co-Founder of the Fairfield Colab Coworking Space and Neighborhood Builders and Developers.
Jeffrey B. Ray, AICP, currently serves as the Planning Department Manager for JEO Consulting Group, Inc. based in the company’s Omaha office. His role within the planning department concentrates on continued development of services to municipal, county and regional entities for comprehensive plans, zoning and subdivision regulations, master planning, redevelopment plans and quality control. Prior to joining JEO, he served as the Community Development Director for the City of Fremont, Nebraska where he developed and monitored the department budget, administered the Planning Commission and Board of Adjustments, and assisted with economic development projects. He has more than 25 years of management and planning experience developing solutions on a wide range of projects throughout the Midwest and California. His previous professional experience includes planning manager for the 415-acre Universal Studios site located in Los Angeles, the LAX Master Plan, and Sacramento’s Delta Shores mixed use project, just to name a few. Jeff received his Master of Community and Regional Planning and Bachelor of Architectural Science from the University of Nebraska. He is certified with the American Institute of Certified Planners and is the Past President of the Metro Chapter of the Nebraska Planning and Zoning Association.

Jane Rongerude, PhD is an assistant professor in the Department of Community and Regional Planning at Iowa State University, where she teaches courses in planning theory, community and urban revitalization, housing, and neighborhood planning. Her research interests focus on the potential of planning as a tool to interrupt local system of poverty management; in particular how housing policy and planning practices shape and maintain poverty places. Dr. Rongerude has conducted research related to housing and neighborhood planning for the City of Des Moines, Plan DSM, The Tomorrow Plan, the Polk County Housing Trust Fund, and the ISU 4U Promise. She earned her MCP and PhD in city and regional planning from the University of California at Berkeley.

Antonio Rosell is founder and Director of Community Design Group (CDG). In 2015, he was recognized as "Minnesota Planner of the Year" by the Minnesota Chapter of the American Planning Association. An Urban Planner and Civil Engineer with more than twenty years of professional experience, Antonio integrates innovation and best-practices in Active Transportation, community design, and citizen participation to facilitate community learning, consensus-building and project implementation. He has led numerous sustainable mobility planning, design and community engagement projects in Minnesota, Iowa, and neighboring states, and as well as internationally. Antonio also leads trainings for engineers, planners and other design professionals on pedestrian and bicycle transportation topics, and serves as Adjunct Professor in the Urban and Regional Planning Program of the University of Minnesota’s Humphrey School, where he teaches a graduate course on sustainable transportation.

David Ross is a Landscape architect by education, GIS agent by choice and certified drone pilot through passion. He received his education form the University of Nebraska Lincoln and is employed with the City of Lincoln in the Parks department.

Anne Russett, AICP is a planning and zoning project manager with 10 years of experience in the public-sector. Her work focuses on integrating sustainability principles into policy documents and regulations in order to promote equitable and livable communities. Prior to joining the City of Cedar Rapids in 2014 she worked for the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning and the Oregon Department of Transportation where she worked on a variety of land use and mobility related planning initiatives, many of which focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. She has a Master of Arts degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Iowa.
Chad W. Schaeffer became Director of Business Affairs, Community Growth, and Engineering for the City of Fort Dodge in May, 2013. As Director, he is responsible for 16 employees in the Planning, Community Development, and Engineering Divisions within this department. His duties include oversight of the City’s Comprehensive Plan (Re-Envision 2030) and the implementation of the strategies within this Plan and other associated Plans.

Prior to his appointment in his current position, he served as the City Engineer for the City Fort Dodge beginning in May, 2008. His duties included the management of the City’s 5-year Capital Improvement Program that encompasses approximately $80 million of infrastructure improvements. The Capital Improvement Plan details improvements for the road network, water utility, sanitary sewer utility, storm sewer utility, and airport.

From 2003 to 2008, Mr. Schaeffer was the City Engineer / Public Works Director for the City of Algona in north central Iowa. He also was a Project Engineer for Snyder & Associates, Inc. in Ankeny, Iowa from 1997 to 2002. Mr. Schaeffer received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from South Dakota State University in Brookings, South Dakota. In 2001, he became a licensed engineer in the State of Iowa. Mr. Schaeffer, his wife Molly, and their 3 kids Hannah, Drew, and Caleb live in Fort Dodge.

Eric Schmechel has a BS from University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. Eric started his career with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and then moved to Dubuque in 2007 to work on the Catfish Creek watershed as a project coordinator. Since 2007, Eric has been working with rural and urban landowners, builders, developers, and community stakeholders on both watershed projects and new policies that protect and improve water quality and flooding.

Cory Scott, AICP has been a consultant for communities ranging in size from 200 people to over 400,000. His plans and passion for communities have resulted in millions of dollars of new investment - both public and private funds, and honored by numerous awards. Cory joined RDG in 2000 and now manages the planning studio in RDG's Des Moines office. He has completed over 100 projects, including plans for downtowns, corridors, neighborhoods, citywide comprehensive plans, market studies, development regulations, facility programming, urban design, and transportation.

Todd Seaman serves as Clive’s Leisure Services Director. He is responsible for the management and operations of the Clive Parks and Recreation Department, Public Library and the Public Art program. Todd received a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Recreation Education from the University of Iowa in 1985 and has served as the Leisure Services Director since December of 2013.

Christopher Shires, AICP, is a Principal with Confluence, a professional landscape architecture, urban design, and planning firm with offices in Des Moines, Kansas City, Sioux Falls, Cedar Rapids, and Minneapolis. Prior to joining Confluence, Chris was the Development and Inspection Manager for the City of West Des Moines, and was responsible for overseeing the development review process. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) and the Iowa Chapter of the American Planning Association, currently serving as Chair of Conference Sponsorships and Chair of Professional Development. Chris is also a member of the Urban Land Institute (ULI).
Jason Stangland, PLA, LEED BD+C, is a principal landscape architect with SmithGroupJJR with over 18 years’ experience in expertise in urban design, planning and waterfront development. For the past 10 years Jason has been working to strategically position communities to rebuild and enhance their waterfronts as catalytic economic and social reinvestments for the communities they serve. He has worked with municipalities throughout the Great Lakes and Mississippi River watersheds to holistically integrate ecological, economic, and cultural amenities that help reimagine underutilized waterfront properties. As part of these projects, Jason helps identify and secure funding resources for clients and municipalities through a variety of federal, state, and local grant programs.

Gary Taylor is an Associate Professor and Extension Specialist in the Department of Community & Regional Planning at Iowa State University, with an affiliate appointment to ISU’s Graduate Program in Sustainable Agriculture. Gary is currently serving as Interim Director of the Community and Economic Development unit of ISU Extension and Outreach. Gary publishes, conducts workshops and provides technical assistance to citizens and government officials in Iowa in a variety of subject areas, including land use and local government law, land use planning, and intergovernmental relations. 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.

Joe Taylor is Director of the Quad Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau. The QCVCB works to promote tourism, especially heritage tourism, throughout the entire region.

Melissa Edsill Tiedemann, AICP is a Business Development Manager with Stanley Consultants, Inc., Melissa has particular expertise in funding procurement for public and private brownfield redevelopment and other municipal projects. Melissa also prepares and implements public involvement initiatives in conjunction with redevelopment projects and other major municipal projects. Melissa holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics with an emphasis in Community Economic Development from the University of Northern Iowa, a Masters of Business Administration from Upper Iowa University, and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

Eric Van Buskirk is currently an Associate Planner for the City of Champaign, Illinois. He supports the community’s commitment to sustainable urban growth by coordinating development review, assisting with long range planning projects, negotiating development agreements and providing staff support and expertise to the City’s Historic Preservation Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. Previously, he served as Planning Technician for the City of Dubuque, Iowa, and has held positions with the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission and Champaign-Urbana Public Health District. Eric is currently working towards his AICP certification and will return to his alma mater, the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, in the fall to begin graduate studies. He holds a Dual Bachelor’s Degree in Urban and Regional Planning and Music Performance.

Wally Wernimont has been an Assistant Planner with the City of Dubuque since 2001. He received a B.S. degree in Community and Regional Planning from Iowa State University. A few of his responsibilities include staff support for the Zoning Board of Adjustment, as well as site plan review, Section 106 historic preservation reviews, Unified Development Code and grant administration. Wally enjoys working with customers from “boots to suits” to help them with their project needs.
Brian Willham is a Professional Engineer and Professional Traffic Operations Engineer. He worked for 15 years in private consulting and has currently worked over 2 years in the public sector at the City of Des Moines. His experience has included a wide variety of multi-modal transportation planning and design, traffic modeling in various software packages, traffic signal system design, construction, preparation of various types of funding applications, CIP planning and development, and various forms of group leadership.

Diane Williams joined Business Districts, Inc. in 2003 with a unique combination of private and public sector skills and experiences. Diane’s careers in both sectors encompass three decades of experience in understanding markets and their relationship to strategy development. Her consulting practice emphasizes commercial district revitalization plans and strategies, downtown development, business growth systems, and preservation economics. Prior to pursuing graduate studies in historic preservation, Diane Williams was a Vice President at Citibank in Chicago. She has twenty-one years of banking experience, including thirteen as a commercial banker to the small business market. Diane’s experience also includes serving as Executive Director of a downtown BID organization and as program staff for Illinois’ statewide Main Street program. Diane is a graduate of the National Trust Main Street Center’s Certification Institute. She was also a case study contributor to ULI’s 2016 publication entitled Reaching for the Future: Creative Finance for Smaller Communities.

David Wilwerding has been employed with the City of Johnston since 2002, serving in the position of Community Development Director since 2007. In this position, Mr. Wilwerding is responsible for managing all current and long range planning functions, overseeing the building department and providing staff support to the Planning and Zoning Commission, Board of Adjustment and City Council. Mr. Wilwerding is also a Lecturer in the Community and Regional Planning Department at Iowa State University, regularly teaching the CRP 432 Senior Studio. Mr. Wilwerding is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). He is also active on the Iowa Chapter of the American Planning Association’s Board of Directors having served as the Awards Coordinator, a Presidential Term and is currently serving as the Chapter Professional Development Officer, in addition to being involved in and chairing numerous conference planning committees. Mr. Wilwerding earned a Bachelor’s degree in Community and Regional Planning from Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa and a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa.

John Wisor is not only a business owner (11th Street Precinct, among others) and developer in the Village, he has also recently built his home in the heart of the District. He is nearing completion on a widely supported, significant new construction project on 12th Street, and has several other projects in the works.