



# GPA Fall Conference 2019

Athens, Georgia  
October 2-4, 2019

## Session Descriptions

*\*Note: this is subject to change; please refer to the Guidebook app for the most up-to-date information.*

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2

**11:00am** - Registration Opens

**1:00pm - 2:15pm**

#### **Atlanta's Westside Neighborhoods Prepare for Redevelopment – a Land Use and Zoning Case Study**

*Grand Hall 1 - 1.25 CM*

On Atlanta's Westside, historic African American neighborhoods are rapidly re-developing. This session explores how the City of Atlanta and Westside Future Fund empowered these neighborhoods to reset the conversation on future growth through a comprehensive, large-scale land use and rezoning effort.

*Speakers: Glenda Krouse, AICP; Carter Coleman; Keyetta Holmes, AICP; Joan Vernon*

#### **Planning for Extreme Weather: Assessing Transportation Vulnerability on a Regional and Local Scale**

*Grand Hall 2 - 1.25 CM*

Extreme weather events threaten to disrupt transportation assets and services, impacting mobility. This session will discuss how ARC is assessing vulnerability of critical transportation assets and services to inform funding priorities, and how local jurisdictions can conduct similar assessments.

*Speakers: Megha Young, AICP; Aileen Daney; Lawrence Frank, CFM, MRP; Stephen Bourne, PE*

#### **The Potential for a Major Rails and Trails Corridor Through the University of Georgia Campus**

*Grand Hall 3 - 1.25 CM*

The presentation looks at the recently purchased Norfolk and Southern Tracks that run through both the heart of the Athens Downtown as well as the heavily developed portions of the University of Georgia where there are presently more than 11 million passenger boardings.

*Speakers: Jack Crowley, FAICP; Manasi Parkhi*

#### **Columbus Brownfield Program**

*Grand Hall 4 - 1.25 CM*

This session will discuss the Columbus Brownfield Program to include the grants received by EPA for assessments and clean-up, projects undertaken utilizing these grants, and the importance of community engagement and outreach when planning revitalization projects.

*Speakers: Laura Johnson; Amanda Herrit*

#### **AICP Exam Review 1 - Overview**

*Grand Hall 5*

This session is designed for professionals who are preparing to take the AICP exam, including an overview of the requirements, topics, costs, common pitfalls, and study strategies.

*Speaker: Ariel Godwin, AICP*

**2:30pm - 3:45pm**

### **Suburban or Urban? Revitalizing Historic Neighborhoods Adjacent to Suburban Downtowns**

*Grand Hall 1 - 1.25 CM*

New highways built through neighborhoods. Blight, concentrated poverty, and downtown-led redevelopment. These aren't exclusive to big cities anymore. This session explores how two planning efforts in suburban Douglasville's North Side neighborhood addressed these issues to promote revitalization.

*Speakers: Matthew Bedsole, AICP; Glenda Krouse, AICP; Patrice Williams*

### **Redeveloping Plan Review**

*Grand Hall 2 - 1.25 CM*

Professional planners that find themselves involved in the review of plans for permit issuance may contemplate whether those processes and procedures are truly as effective and efficient as possible. This overview and panel discussion will focus on recent changes in Athens-Clarke County.

*Speakers: Gavin Hassemmer, AICP; Doug Hansford; Elizabeth Hargrove; Brett Nave*

### **Innovation in Public Outreach: Benchmarks from the Rest of Georgia**

*Grand Hall 3 - 1.25 CM*

How have limited resourced communities successfully involved and sustained input from disenfranchised communities, Millennials and the underserved. Session purpose is to showcase innovative approaches to effective public outreach in communities outside of the Atlanta Metro region.

*Speakers: Oliver Page, PhD; Caroline Daigle; Amy Martin; Glen Coyne, FAICP*

### **The Chattahoochee RiverLands- Reimagining Metro Atlanta's Relationship with the Chattahoochee River**

*Grand Hall 4 - 1.25 CM*

The Chattahoochee RiverLands is an ambitious study to build 100 miles of trails and public space across Metro Atlanta. The multidisciplinary team will discuss how we seek to balance access, equity, ecology, and identity along the river and benefits and challenges of a holistic planning approach.

*Speakers: Erin Thoresen, AICP; Walt Ray, RLA, AICP; Byron Rushing; Jessica Norris, PhD; Nans Voron*

### **AICP Exam Review 2 - Law**

*Grand Hall 5*

This session is designed for professionals who are preparing to take the AICP exam. The session will include an overview of the Law area of the exam.

*Speaker: David Kirk*

### **MOBILE SESSION**

### **Athens in Motion Walking Tour**

*Meet at Registration - 1.25 CM*

Kick off your Athens experience with a walking tour of downtown Athens and some of its new bicycle and pedestrian facilities with Hillary Essig, Athens-Clarke County's first Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator. The tour will include a brief overview of the recently adopted "Athens In Motion" Bicycle / Pedestrian Master Plan and a stop along the way at Creature Comforts Brewery

*Speaker/Guide: Hillary Essig*

**4:00pm - 5:15pm**

### **AICP Exam Review 3 - History and Theory**

*Grand Hall 5*

This session is designed for professionals who are preparing to take the AICP exam. The session will include an overview of the History and Theory areas of the exam.

*Speaker: Larry Keating, FAICP*

### **Ethics Cases of the Year (until 5:30)**

*Grand Hall 7 - 1.5 ETHICS CM*

This interactive session will present the latest (2018-2019) Ethics Cases of the Year and lead a discussion of how these real scenarios illustrate specific principles of the AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Development.

*Speakers: Ariel Godwin, AICP; Jim Summerbell, AICP; Deborah Lawlor, FAICP*

### **Evening Event:**

**5:30-7:30 Welcome Reception at Classic Center Atrium**

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

**7:00am** - Continental breakfast begins

**7:45am - 9:00am**

### KEYNOTE

#### **One Georgia, Two Georgias, A Hundred Georgias: A Disappearing Sense of Place**

*Grand Hall 7 - 1.25 CM*

As planners, we tend to be deeply connected to our communities. How do these connections form, and how do we leverage them to be effective leaders in our communities? Social psychologist and conservationist Rob Williams will take us on a tour of the many Georgias we work in, and discuss the power of place in planning, politics, and policy.

*Speaker: Robert Williams, PhD*

**9:15am - 10:30am**

#### **GPA District 2: Home of UGA Athletics, Rapid Growth, and Commitment to Communities**

*Grand Hall 1 - 1.25 CM*

Learn how UGA's Athletic Facilities program competes in a big money, highly competitive "business"; Jackson County, one of the US's fastest growing counties, balances growth and their ag industry; and Connect Athens roots planning for major arterials in the commitment of staff and the community.

*Speakers: Danny Sniff; Jack Crowley, FAICP; Gina Roy; Gavin Hassemmer, AICP; Aron Hall*

#### **Placemaking in Suburbia**

*Grand Hall 2 - 1.25 CM*

What is placemaking and what can it apply to the suburbs? This session discusses recent experience with a placemaking effort in Forsyth County, as well as pulling in an art expert to talk about the role of art in placemaking- all with an eye to placemaking in less urban environments.

*Speakers: Alex Fite-Wassilak, AICP; Rachel Evans; Julia Brodsky; Vanessa Bernstein, AICP*

#### **Atlanta City Studio: Better City Design by Working Locally**

*Grand Hall 3 - 1.25 CM*

The Atlanta City Studio is a pop-up urban design studio within the City of Atlanta's Department of City Planning. Moving to different locations within the city to collaborate with different communities, the studio authored the Atlanta City Design: Aspiring to the Beloved Community. Over the last two years, the Studio worked closely with the residents of Cascade Heights in southwest Atlanta. Come see the products of our collaboration and a new model for community engagement and design.

*Speaker: Kevin Bacon, AIA, AICP*

#### **The Future of Single-Family Zoning in Georgia**

*Grand Hall 4 - 1.25 CM*

Policy-makers in cities of Minneapolis and the State of Oregon have recently succeeded in adopting policies to eliminate single-family residential zoning. This session will overview the history of single-family zoning, outline these historic new policies, and discuss if/how they can be applied to GA.

*Speakers: Matt Lonnerstater, AICP; Mary Darby; Anamaria Hazard; Keyetta Holmes, AICP*

#### **Big Plans for Coastal Georgia**

*Grand Hall 5 - 1.25 CM*

Savannah has big plans in the works! The proposed canal district and arena west of downtown serves as a case study of broader planning issues facing all of coastal Georgia. We will highlight resilience, master planning, mixed use, housing, community and economic development.

*Speakers: Whitney Shephard, PE; Nicholas Deffley, LEED; Bridget Lidy, AICP; Cassie Branum*

## 10:45am - 12:00pm

### Planning for Resilience During Blue and Gray Skies

Grand Hall 1 - 1.25 CM

A variety of organizations are becoming more and more interested in incorporating resilience into their planning efforts, as a way to understand the level of exposure and vulnerability to many climate and other threats. This session will showcase the work performed by planners in Georgia, and showcase a variety of tools to plan for resilience, including tools to improve flooding visualization participatory planning, geodesign, and modeling.  
*Speakers: Rosanna Rivero; Lawrence Frank, CFM, MRP; Micah Taylor; Allison Smith, AICP*

### Geospatial Analysis Tools Developed by NASA DEVELOP for Regional Planning

Grand Hall 2 - 1.25 CM

Presenting an assortment of geospatial analysis tools for environmental strategic planning on a regional scale, this session will showcase creative uses of NASA Earth Observation datasets to address issues of coastal resiliency, food security, solar energy, endangered habitats, and water management.

*Lynn Abdouni, AICP; Maria-Luisa Escobar Pardo; Samantha Trust; Austin Stone; Melanie Rausch*

### Beating the Odds: Thriving Malls and Sustainable Suburban Retail

Grand Hall 3 - 1.25 CM

We've heard the doom-and-gloom story about the fate of traditional malls. Yet some malls, particularly those on urban edge, continue to thrive. Why is this? Is it sustainable? Hear how Arbor Place Mall in Douglasville and Town Center Cobb are making it work, and the mechanics behind the market.

*Speakers: Allison Stewart-Harris, AICP; Alisha Smith; Patrice Williams; Joe Kolb*

### To Boldly Zone Where Zoning Has Not Been Before

Grand Hall 4 - 1.25 CM

Discussion of innovative strategies for updating severely outdated zoning codes, or creating and implementing land use regulations for the first time,

or implementing first time form-based codes and/or unified development codes. Strategies include GIS analysis and tailored stakeholder involvement.

*Speakers: Ariel Godwin, AICP; Matt Martin, AICP; Parag Agrawal, AICP*

### Atlanta Regional Commission: Strengthening Local Relevance through Technical Assistance

Grand Hall 5 - 1.25 CM

ARC staff will introduce its technical assistance program, the Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP). Through CDAP, Metro Atlanta communities receive staffing, resources and grants to support a wide range of land-use and development initiatives.

*Speakers: Allison Duncan, AICP; Anna Baggett; Nick Miller; Darryl Simmons; Phillip Trocquet*

## MOBILE SESSION

### Athletics Facilities Arms Race (until 12:45)

Meet at Registration - 2.00 CM

A combination walking and bus tour that will take in how a major University such as Georgia strategically plans and develops a comprehensive athletics facilities program to keep up with and in cases, get ahead of other major University athletic programs in a big money, highly competitive "business."  
*Speakers: Jack Crowley, FAICP; Danny Sniff, EdD*

## 12:00pm - 1:45pm

## LUNCH, LEARN + LAUDE

### Fifty Years Ahead-- What Land Use Can Tell Us About Building a Sustainable Georgia

Grand Hall 7 - 1.00 CM

Georgia's population growth raises questions of how statewide land cover changes have affected economic potential, housing, and the environment. This session analyzes 50 years of land cover data as a conversation starter on policies to sustain Georgia's large metros, small towns, and environment.

*Speakers: Katherine Moore, AICP; Tony Giarrusso, AICP; Andrea Foard*

**This session will conclude with the GPA Awards presentation.**

## 2:00pm - 3:15pm

### Virginia Avenue Smart Corridor

*Grand Hall 1 - 1.25 CM*

Aerotropolis CIDs and Modern Mobility Partners are examining options for technology elements to improve safety, walkability and mobility along the Virginia Avenue 2-mile corridor near the world's busiest and most efficient airport, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

*Speakers: Kirsten Mote, AICP; Keli Kemp, AICP*

### Social Media and Big Data for Transportation Planning - Illustrated Through 3 Case Studies

*Grand Hall 2 - 1.25 CM*

Over the course of three transportation planning projects in the GHMPO area, our team has utilized social media, big data, and GIS Analysis. Come learn about our methods through 3 case studies which include an intersection study, a County Transportation Plan (TP), and the MPO's Regional TP.

*Speakers: Caroline Evans, AICP; Steve Cote, PE; Joseph Boyd, AICP*

### The ABCs of the West End: Athletics, Brews, and Collaboration

*Grand Hall 3 - 1.25 CM*

In this cross sectional panel-style discussion, four professionals whose work has interacted with the West End community in central Atlanta will explain how their organizations' work has helped to reshape the rapidly evolving neighborhood without replacing what's already there.

*Speakers: Jourdyn Fuga, PE; Sanjay Patel; Jerald Mitchell; Joel Iverson; Jack Murphy*

### Public Outreach and Comprehensive Planning for Communities in Transition

*Grand Hall 4 - 1.25 CM*

In 20 years, Gwinnett County, GA became one of the most diverse counties in the United States. It is embracing change characterized by a wide variety of land uses reflecting differing values. Learn how inclusive public outreach shaped recent comprehensive planning efforts.

*Speakers: Nancy Lovingood, AICP; Lauren Blaszyk, AICP; Eric Lusher, AICP; Dan Reuter, FAICP; Beth Tucker*

### Future of Planning: Student Sessions

*Grand Hall 4 - 1.25 CM*

Hear what innovative planning students have been up to, including: measuring citizen "affect" and mental health by looking at tweets; the success of Georgia's Youth Engagement and Action for Health (YEAH) program; exploring the relationship between data and equity; and learning from Medellin, Colombia.

*Speakers: Stephen Ramos, D.Des.; Florina Dutt; Jasmine Jones-Bynes; Katie O'Connell; Samantha Eberhard*

## MOBILE SESSION

### Town and Gown Tour of Historic Athens

*Meet at Registration - 1.25 CM*

Take a tour of historic Athens! This mix of walking and van tour will include a visit to the historic Church-Waddel-Brumby House, as well as Downtown Athens, a portion of the Historic Cobbham neighborhood, Milledge Avenue, and the University of Georgia campus.

*Speaker/Guide: Brad Griffin*

## 3:30pm - 4:15pm

### Atlanta City Design: Process, Scenarios, and Future Directions

*Grand Hall 1 - 1.25 CM*

An overview of the Atlanta City Design process, tools, and future directions.

*Speakers: Subhro Guhathakurta; Kevin Bacon, AIA, AICP; Tony Giarrusso, AICP; Gordon Zhang*

### The Missing Key to Effective Public Engagement: User Experience Design

*Grand Hall 2 - 1.25 CM*

User Experience Design has proven successful in the tech industry, but it doesn't need to stay there. Come to this session to learn what UX is, it's process, and how it can improve our career field in city planning and the way we tackle design problems and the public engagement process.

*Speakers: Julia Brodsky; Sarah McColley, AICP; Matthew Ockwell*

## **GDOT Statewide Transit Plan – Project Overview**

*Grand Hall 3 - 1.25 CM*

GDOT is developing a Statewide Transit Plan in coordination with local governments, planning agencies, and transit providers to document transit needs and strategies to ensure that all Georgians have access to public transit. This session will provide a project update, including information on existing conditions, transit needs assessment, public and stakeholder engagement, and performance measures. Discussion will solicit input and feedback from the audience.

*Speakers: Leigh Ann Trainer; Ryan Walker; Daniel Walls; Brian Smart*

## **Think Outside the Main Street: Supporting Your Downtown from the Outside In**

*Grand Hall 4 - 1.25 CM*

Main Streets anchor cities economically, aesthetically, and culturally. But what about everything else? Using examples from LaGrange and Powder Springs, among others, this session explores how housing diversity, creative zoning, and greenspace help small to mid-size cities boost their downtowns.

*Speakers: Katherine Moore, AICP; Geoff Koski, CNU-A; Sam Collier, JD; Tina Garver*

## **New Urbanism, Traditional Neighborhood Developments & Sustainability**

*Grand Hall 5 - 1.25 CM*

This session explores examples of traditional neighborhood development, key principles of New Urbanism and their connection to sustainability through a lens of both local and national projects.

*Speakers: Laura Richter, AICP; Adam Williamson, AICP, ASLA; Robert Reed; David Pedrick*

### **MOBILE SESSION**

## **History, Community, and Storytelling: Georgia Author Talk at Avid Bookstore**

*Meet at Registration - 1.25 CM*

Co-hosted by local bookseller Avid Bookstores, join Georgia authors Hannah Palmer and Kate Sweeney in the historic fire hall for a panel discussion on how to uncover community histories, engage long-time residents, and give life to their stories. Hannah Palmer is the author of *Flight Path: A Search for Roots beneath*

*the World's Busiest Airport*, and currently leads the Finding the Flint initiative. Kate Sweeney is an award-winning writer and former producer at NPR affiliate WABE; she currently produces and hosts What's Next ATL, the Atlanta Regional Commission's podcast about the issues critical to metro Atlanta's future.

*Speakers: Hannah Palmer; Kate Sweeney; Allison Duncan, AICP; King Williams; Allison Stewart-Harris, AICP*

## **Evening Events:**

**5:00-7:00 University of Georgia Reception**

**6:30-8:30 Emerging Planners Group (EPG) Event at The Globe**

**7:00-9:00 Civic Dinners at Trappeze Pub**

## **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4**

**7:00am - Continental breakfast begins**

**8:00am - 9:15am**

## **Minding the Gaps: Developing a Continuous Sidewalk Network**

*Grand Hall 1 - 1.25 CM*

Learn how to address minor sidewalk gaps and other small-scale pedestrian issues. We will cover how to prioritize segments; dedicate resources; build flexibility into your plan; balance community input with technical expertise; coordinate with agencies and departments; and design alternatives.

*Speakers: Michael Kray; Ian Sansom; Courtney Frisch; Jack Anninos*

## **Runnin' Down a Dream: Misadventures of Zoning, Overlays, Form-Based Codes, and Variances**

*Grand Hall 2 - 1.25 CM*

Will the next code, the third over the past 20 years for Woodstock's Ridgewalk Corridor, fulfill the long-term vision for a walkable, attractive, mixed-use community? This session is a study in the realities, challenges, limitations, and successes of form-based and zoning codes to realize a vision.

*Speakers: Brantley Day, AICP; Richard McLeod; Katie O'Connor, AICP; Niwana Ray; Dakota Carruthers*

## Enhancing Community Character Amidst Growth Pressures: Milton, GA

Grand Hall 3 - 1.25 CM

Cities within the Atlanta metropolitan area are facing tremendous growth pressures and Milton is no exception. Despite being the fastest growing North Fulton city, Milton has retained much of its rural heritage and continues to invest in initiatives to enhance its rural character. *Speakers: Parag Agrawal, AICP; Michele McIntosh-Ross; Teresa Stickels*

## Building Resilience in Rural Georgia to Face Coming Storms

Grand Hall 4 - 1.25 CM

Extreme weather is increasing in frequency and severity. Rural communities relying on the agriculture and outdoor economy sectors are at higher risk of economic and environmental damage. Panelists will discuss recent weather events and efforts to build resilience through partnerships and programs. *Speakers: Nick Johnson; Pam Knox; Stacy Watson; Jonathan Brown*

## Advocacy for Planners 101

Grand Hall 5 - 1.25 CM

Advocacy is a vital tool in the planner's toolbox. Last year, advocacy experts helped pass GOSA to promote new greenspace, and helped block HB 302, which removed local control over housing design. This is a crash course on how planners can advocate for good design, planning, and local oversight. *Speakers: Leah Dixon; Charlotte Davis; Rep. Scot Turner; Todd Edwards*

## MOBILE SESSION

### It's Bigger Than You: A Bike Tour of REM's Athens (until 10:45)

Meet at Registration - 2.75 CM

Starting with a debrief at Jittery Joe's Roastery, hop on a bike and head down the North Oconee Greenway for a quick pit stop at Weaver D's (source of REM's album title "Automatic for the People") and other key spots from the band's Georgia days. From there, bike to Dudley Park to check out the Trestle and new pedestrian bridge. *Speakers: Beth Tucker; Eric Bosman, AICP; Melinda Cochran Davis, MPA, PLA, CPRP; Nathan Currier, PE, SE*

## 9:30am - 10:45am

### Regulating for Reptiles: How Planners Can Balance Development and Species Protection

Grand Hall 1 - 1.25 CM

This session will delve into regulations related to endangered species listing, which can hinder economic gains related to development and industry. Case studies will explore the intersection between habitat conservation policy, economic development and comprehensive planning opportunities. *Speakers: Krisztian Varsa; Neil Fleckenstein; Charles McMillan, PE*

### Real Time Snap Shot of Short Term Rental Ordinances in Georgia

Grand Hall 2 - 1.25 CM

Short term rental ordinance issues and regulations, including reasons to regulate, state taxation, use conflicts, enforcement, and permitting, will be discussed by local government staff who will share experiences and lessons learned for amending STR ordinances and handling day to day STR matters. *Speakers: Vanessa Foster, PLA; Adam Hazell, AICP; Bridget Lidy, AICP*

### When Public Art is Not So Public

Grand Hall 3 - 1.25 CM

Have you ever wondered what would happen if there were no public engagement in the public art process? If so, this session will provide two perspectives on the importance of outreach in the public art creation and selection processes. *Speakers: Geneasa Elias, AICP; Beth McMillan; Lynette Reid; Christopher Swain; Miranda Kyle*

### Catalysts in Transportation Planning

Grand Hall 4 - 1.25 CM

This session explores the role of a single catalyst in creating or recreating a transportation system, with emphasis on case-specific analysis, legislation, and design methodologies. A catalyst can be (but is not limited to) a university/technology campus, major sport event, TOD, or a port city. *Speakers: Lynn Abdouni, AICP; Manasi Parkhi; Jack Crowley, FAICP*

**Northwest Georgia: Planning for Connections, Recognizing Opportunities**

*Grand Hall 5 - 1.25 CM*

Northwest Georgia cities and counties prosper through planning and implementation; examples include the freight-expediting Appalachian Regional Port, the OneDoor Polk hospital reuse showcasing good design and partnerships, and the Silver Comet Trail spurring region-wide bike and trail connectivity.

*Speakers: Mark Cochran; Wesley Barrell; Joseph Davidson*

**11:00am - 12:30pm**

**Legal Update: 5G, HB493, and Quasi-J**

*Grand Hall 7 - 1.5 LAW CM*

This session will discuss current legal issues in land use and planning, including the small cell rollout, private inspections under HB 493 and conducting local government hearings in light of recent Georgia Supreme Court case law on quasi-judicial hearings.

*Speaker: Brandon Bowen*