



APA Ohio Board of Trustees

2024 Slate of Candidates

Name	Jacob T Barnes
Certification	NA
Contact Email	zoningsolutions@outlook.com
Position Statement	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to express my interest. I am passionate about all aspects of planning, zoning, and economic development. Helping communities with these important items is something I greatly enjoy and there is a sense of satisfaction that comes with helping to address items that ultimately affect the quality of life for residents and the success of businesses. Over the years, I have grown to love helping and educating other Planning and Zoning Officials at various conferences across the State of Ohio. I am constantly increasing my knowledge of this profession not only for myself but to be able help others. I've had the unique opportunity to see planning and zoning from the business perspective as well, having owned a planning/zoning consulting business and numerous businesses in other categories over the years including multiple restaurants in a three-state area. Thank you for your consideration, I greatly appreciate it.</p>
Professional Experience	<p>22 years' overall experience in Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development</p> <p>20+ years as the Planning Director for Springfield Township (Lucas County)</p> <p>8+ years as a zoning consultant for Spencer Township (Lucas County)</p> <p>Zoning advisor and regular speaker for the Ohio Township Association</p> <p>Owner and founder of Zoning Solutions, a consulting company that specializes in helping municipalities with planning and zoning issues. Have updated zoning codes and land use plans for local governments across the State of Ohio.</p> <p>Board President, Holland Springfield Chamber of Commerce</p>

Educational Background	B.A. Communications B.S. Earth Science Ohio Township Association Leadership Academy graduate Ohio Township Association Leadership Academy 2.0 graduate (inaugural class)
Volunteer Activities	NW Ohio APA Secretary Regular speaker at APA sponsored events in NW Ohio Involved in planning local APA conferences and the APA State Conference that was held in Toledo a few years ago
Other Relevant Experience	Chairman of the Board, Holland Springfield Chamber of Commerce Fluent in English and Spanish

Name	Alex Carlson
Certification	AICP
Contact Email	acarlson@miamitownship.com
Position Statement	<p>The American Planning Association has a history of shaping policy in the effort to create livable, sustainable, and equitable places, all while elevating the planning profession through education and best practice recommendations. I am passionate about contributing to this mission through a leadership position within the American Planning Association. I hope to contribute my professional experience while listening to and amplifying the expertise and opinions of professionals with experiences different than my own.</p> <p>The APA must continue to champion equity in our communities, from affordable housing initiatives to improved access to transportation. I am most passionate about working to find ways to make equity "make sense" to all of our communities, regardless of politics. Beyond the moral imperative of creating inclusive communities, equitable practices can be justified through the lens of economics, public health, sustainability, accessibility, and countless other perspectives.</p>
Professional Experience	<p>Miami Township, Montgomery County, Ohio - 2017 - Present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Development Director (2022 - Present) - Community Development Deputy Director (2020-2022) - Planner (2017-2020) <p>Powell, Ohio - 2016 - 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zoning Inspector
Educational Background	<p>The Ohio State University - Bachelor's in City and Regional Planning - 2016</p> <p>AICP Certified - 2021</p>
Volunteer Activities	<p>I was fortunate to attend planning meetings for the Miami Valley Planning & Zoning Workshop, and volunteered the day of the workshop at the check-in station. I hope to continue to get involved in this workshop, I believe it is one of the best opportunities for local planners to connect and learn from each other.</p>
Other Relevant Experience	<p>I have attended local, state, and national APA conferences. I have brought many 'best practice' lessons back to my community and have made invaluable relationships via the APA.</p>

Name	Elizabeth Fields
Certification	AICP
Contact Email	efields@mcbridedale.com
Position Statement	<p>With McBride Dale Clarion, I have the opportunity to work with many public planning offices throughout Ohio and the surrounding states, ranging from urban to rural settings and small to large jurisdictions. My work varies but is focused on drafting zoning regulations and design guidelines; creating comprehensive, downtown, area, and corridor plans; and providing planning staff services for a number of cities and townships. This experience allows me to witness the planning issues, concerns, and trends that arise and how they differ between communities.</p> <p>My experience and work are unique and would be an asset to the APA Ohio Board. I think it is valuable to have a mix of planning professionals on the Board so that each brings a unique point of view. This can ensure that as a state we are aware of the issues and trends that are occurring and be proactive by providing the services and educational materials that are needed. Our society is changing so fast that it is very difficult to keep up with the trends for many jurisdictions, especially from a zoning standpoint. I feel like this is something that APA Ohio addresses with the planning newsletter and webcast series, but I also see the opportunity to expand and vary the types of educational materials that are available.</p> <p>Personally, I am a wife and mom of three that resides in Loveland (Symmes Township). My son, Porter, is 13, my middle girl, Eden, is 11, and my youngest girl, Quinn, will be 5 on March 20th. My husband is a Mechanical Designer for Yaskawa Motoman Robotics, and we have a 1 year old mini bernedoodle puppy, Indy. My life is fun and crazy! I am also passionate about my community. Downtown Loveland is a gem and a great example of a small downtown that includes a mix of historic and new architecture with amenities that cater to many including our famous bike trail, amazing restaurants with roof top balconies and outdoor patios, record store, ice cream, brewery, and a local liquor store turned tap room.</p> <p>I also serve as a member of the Symmes Township Zoning Commission, and really enjoy sitting on the other side of the dais. It's a completely different experience reviewing plans and code amendments from a commissioner's point of view than being a consultant. It has been a valuable experience so far where I can help shape the future of my community, while also bringing my planning knowledge to the role. I look forward to continuing this role for the foreseeable future.</p> <p>Thank you for considering me for the APA Ohio Board.</p>

Professional Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planner for McBride Dale Clarion from 2013-current. Currently serve as the Public Planning Manager for McBride Dale Clarion. - Planner for the Town of Windsor, Colorado from 2009-2012. - Planner I for the City of Colorado Springs, Colorado from 2007-2008.
Educational Background	Bachelors in Urban Planning from University of Cincinnati. Graduated in 2007.
Volunteer Activities	Regular speaker and attendee at APA Ohio events such as webcasts, conferences, and local events.
Other Relevant Experience	Member of the Symmes Township Zoning Commission.

Name	Nichole R. Laird
Certification	AICP
Contact Email	nicholelaird@gmail.com
Position Statement	<p>There is a considerable need to increase the visibility and representation of Black planners within our profession. Representation matters because it helps to form our perceptions about ourselves and how we fit within our communities, and most importantly, validates the importance of how we can affect change in our community. As a planner with the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, I have had the pleasure of serving in many diverse communities where planning is a community-wide participatory process that is encouraged and nurtured. Conversely, when I serve in communities with a significant Black population, participation is not as robust. Residents often tell me how important it is to see me there because more people that look like us, working with us, are needed to make our community better. That is both inspiring and disheartening to hear.</p> <p>That is why I would like to serve on the APA Ohio Board of Trustees. I would like to leverage my experiences to become an advocate for mentorship, leadership, and continued professional development for young Black professionals entering the planning profession. I would also like to help develop and foster educational programs about civic engagement and planning for students. By continuing to utilize the guiding framework that make up the APA Ohio Strategic Plan to Expand Influence, Grow Core Strengths, Activate Leadership, and Support Membership, I believe that the APA Ohio Chapter is well positioned to grow and further diversify the membership and increase awareness of the planning profession in positive and meaningful ways through visibility and representation at the leadership levels of our Chapter. I would love to be a member of the APA Ohio Board of Trustees and help to further the profession.</p>

Professional Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Institute of Certified Planners, AICP (2023 – present) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Member • Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, Cleveland, Ohio <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Senior Planner (2023-present) o Planner (2016-2023) • American Planning Association, National & Ohio Chapters (2016 – present) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Member • City of Shaker Heights Planning Department, Shaker Heights, Ohio (2015) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Planning Intern (part-time) • Cuyahoga County Treasurer’s Office, Cleveland, Ohio (2014-2015) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Fiscal Office Inquiries Assistant • Cuyahoga County Board of Elections, Cleveland, Ohio (2010-2014) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Registration Election Official
Educational Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Master of Education, Health Education, Community Health Promotion, May 2018 o Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), May 2018 o Master of Urban Planning, Design and Development, Environmental Sustainability, December 2015 • The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Bachelor of Arts, English, June 2004

<p>Volunteer Activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APA Ohio Chapter, Cleveland Section Executive Committee (2021- 2023) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o At-Large Member • APA National 2020 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Advisory Committee (2020-2021) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Member • APA Ohio DEI Task Force (2020) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Member
<p>Other Relevant Experience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, (NOACA) Equity Subcommittee (2024-present) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Alternate for the Executive Director of the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission • Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, (GCRTA), Community Advisory Committee (2024 – present) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Secretary • Cleveland State University Levin College Mentoring Program (2023-present) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Mentor • Look Up to Cleveland - Cleveland Leadership Center (2023-2024) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Civic Advisor

Name	Allison Lukacsy-Love
Certification	AICP
Contact Email	alukacsy.love@gmail.com
Position Statement	<p>If re-elected to the Board of Trustees, Allison will be honored to continue to serve Ohio in an active, leadership role. Allison has served one term (2021-2024) and since 2023, she has served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Board as its chapter Treasurer. In this role, she works with APA Ohio’s Executive Director to simplify accounts and strengthen the chapter’s financials while introducing initiatives such as MBE/WBE focused procurement. Additionally, Allison serves as a member of the APA Ohio Legislative Committee, where she exercises her belief that Ohio planners need to better advocate for the positive role of planning (and planners) in our communities. This committee’s advocacy work successfully attracted the attention of APA National and resulted in APA Ohio hosting the inaugural “It Takes A Planner” series on Cleveland’s lakefront in summer 2023.</p> <p>As a certified professional planner, licensed architect, economic development professional and practicing visual artist, Allison brings to APA Ohio unique experiences and perspectives for the equitable redevelopment of the built environment, informed by extensive community placemaking projects. Allison’s passion lies in designing with communities to advance healthy, thriving places and she creatively, collaboratively and tenaciously approaches opportunities and challenges with an inclusive, people-centered mindset to bring urbanist visions from idea to reality. Every Ohioan deserves to live, work and raise a family in a well-planned community where they can access daily needs, safely. Allison also believes there should be more JOY in our communities and places to connect with each other and nature.</p>
Professional Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greater Cleveland Partnership: Managing Director, Major Projects (2022-present) - City of Euclid, Ohio: Director of Planning and Development (2021) and Principal Planner (2016-2020) - Geis Companies, Ohio: Project Manager (2014-2016) - studioTECHNE Architects, Ohio: Project Manager (2011-2014) - Broad Companies / LPO Architects, Shanghai, China: Architectural Designer (2009-10)

Educational Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cleveland State University: Master of Science in Urban Studies (2023) - Case Western Reserve University: Leadership and Project Management Certificate (2023) - Cleveland State University: Graduate Certificate in Urban Economic Development (2020) - Carnegie Mellon University: Bachelor of Architecture, Minor in Business Administration and Design (2009)
Volunteer Activities	<p>Founder:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awesome Foundation, Cleveland Chapter (current) <p>Board Member:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APA Ohio, Executive Committee, Treasurer (current) - Assembly for the Arts (current) - Greater Collinwood Development Corporation (current) - Upcycle Parts Shop (current) - AIA Cleveland, Community Outreach Chair (past) - Greater Cleveland Food Bank YP Council (past) - Carnegie Mellon University NEO Alumni, executive board (past) <p>Professional Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City of Cleveland Design Review, member (current) - Cleveland Leadership Center: Advanced Leadership Institute (current); Bridge Builders (past); Core Council (past) - Next City, Vanguard National Urban Fellow (past) - Springboard for the Arts, scholar (past) - Creative Workforce Fellow (past)
Other Relevant Experience	<p>Certifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) - American Institute of Architects (AIA) <p>Awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crains Cleveland Business, "40 under 40" - Senatorial Citation, State of Ohio Senator Yuko, for the "Euclid Waterfront" - Cleveland Magazine's "Most Interesting People", Female Architects feature - Cleveland Neighborhood Progress' "Civic Champion" award - AIA National's "Emerging Practitioner" awards

Name	Mark McCormack
Certification	NA
Contact Email	mccormackplanner@gmail.com
Position Statement	<p>I am a planner with over 20 years of experience who recognizes that there is always more to learn, make improvements and increase efficiencies, and there's usually several ways to get from point "A" to point "B" (to get the job done or mission accomplished, etc.). I have worked with APA-OH in the past, through various committees, but now have an opportunity to work more directly on some of the many great things that this Chapter does--including advocating planning principles and best management practices, working on improving the State's codes related to planning and zoning, and working with allied professions and groups.</p>

Professional Experience	<p>Union Township, Clermont County (OH) (2022-Present) Development Director</p> <p>Dearborn County Plan Commission (IN) (2006-2022) Director of Planning & Zoning</p> <p>Dearborn County Plan Commission (IN) (2003-2006) Zoning Administrator / Code Enforcement Officer</p> <p>The Performance Group, Inc. (IN) (2002-2003) Designer / Planner / Builder</p> <p>Indianapolis Dept. of Metropolitan Development (IN) (2000, 2001) Successive Summer Internships</p>
Educational Background	<p>Ball State University Bachelor of Science, Urban Planning & Development</p> <p>Political Science Minor Graduated with cum laude honors</p>
Volunteer Activities	<p>I have served on the OKI Conference Committees for the recent Cincinnati, Indianapolis, and Louisville conferences.</p>
Other Relevant Experience	<p>American Planning Association— Indiana Chapter (2000-2022) *Planning Official Development Officer (2016-2021); *Chief Editor of the updated Indiana 'Citizen Planner's Guide'</p> <p>Southern Indiana Region Representative (2014-2015; 2021-2022)</p> <p>American Planning Association (2000-Present)</p> <p>OKI Regional Council of Government's Board of Directors (2005-2022)</p> <p>Tri-State Trails (2015-2017) Executive Committee Member, Secretary</p> <p>Purdue Land Use Team Advisory Board (2017-2022) Advisory Board Member</p>

Name	Geoff Milz
Certification	AICP
Contact Email	gmilz@penrose.com

Position Statement

If my candidacy for APA Ohio Board of Trustees has a platform, it is this: there are many best practices being used in planning shops across the State that, if implemented by others, could raise the bar for planning in Ohio. I would like to work to develop an accreditation program for public sector planning departments to improve the quality and efficiency of work being done and to reward those who engage in best practices with public acknowledgement that is so common in other public sector departments such as Police (CALEA), Fire (CPSE), Public Works (APWA), etc. As many of us have seen through years lean and fat, planners are often in the position of justifying their value. A third-party acknowledgement of distinguished service and competence, such as a departmental accreditation, could be the difference between cuts and additional resources in years to come.

Ohio is so fortunate to have many talented planners in all corners of the State and everywhere in between. In big cities, small towns and counties, there is a small army of thoughtful, diligent public servants and private consultants working to make our little part of the world a bit better. As my career has evolved, I have had the opportunity to see how many planning shops operate and have been fortunate to learn from inspiring mentors.

I am a navigator and community builder trained in urban planning and economic development. I am passionate about the development and execution of innovative projects that make places better for people. Driven by a desire to forge new pathways in the provision of high-quality affordable housing, I aspire to serve as thought leader, innovator and passionate cheerleader for creating and maintaining special places. I currently serve as the Director of Development for Penrose in the Ohio Region.

Prior professional experience includes service to Colerain Township, Ohio as the Township Administrator, Assistant Township Administrator, and Planning Director. I have served the City of Covington, Kentucky as the City's Development Manager and in Cayuga County, New York as Senior Planner. I serve on a number of volunteer boards including the American Planning Association's Ohio Chapter Board of Trustees, Urban Land Institute's Regional Products Council, and Hamilton County Community Development Advisory Commission.

It would be an honor to continue to serve you and our profession as a Trustee for APA-Ohio.

Professional Experience	<p>Director of Development Pennrose September 2022 - Present</p> <p>Township Administrator Colerain Township Apr 2018 – September 2022(5 yrs)</p> <p>Interim Township Administrator Colerain Township Jan 2018 – Apr 2018 (4 mos)</p> <p>Assistant Township Administrator Director of Development Colerain Township Oct 2016 – Apr 2018 (1 yr 7 mos)</p> <p>Development Manager City of Covington, Kentucky Jul 2016 – Oct 2016 (4 mos)</p> <p>Economic Development Manager City of Covington, Kentucky Jun 2015 – Jul 2016 (1 yr 2 mos)</p> <p>Director of Building, Planning & Zoning Colerain Township Oct 2012 – May 2015 (2 yrs 8 mos)</p> <p>Senior Planner Cayuga County Department of Planning & Economic Development Apr 2012 – Oct 2012 (7 mos)</p> <p>Planner Cayuga County Department of Planning & Economic Development 2008 – Apr 2012 (4 yrs)</p> <p>Research Assistant USEPA May 2006 – May 2008 (2 yrs 1 mo)</p>
Educational Background	<p>University of Cincinnati</p> <p>MCP, Community Planning</p> <p>2006 – 2008</p> <p>University of Cincinnati</p> <p>Bachelor of Science, Environmental Studies</p> <p>2000 – 2004</p> <p>Walnut Hills High School</p> <p>1994 – 2000</p>

<p>Volunteer Activities</p>	<p>Trustee Ohio Chapter, American Planning Association 2020 - Present (4 years)</p> <p>Co-Chair Urban Land Institute, Regional Products Council 2023-2024 (2 years)</p> <p>Executive Director Colerain Township Community Improvement Corporation Oct 2016 – September 2022 (6 years)</p> <p>American Planning Association Secretary-Treasurer - Ohio Chapter - Cincinnati Section Jul 2016 – Jul 2018 (2 yrs)</p> <p>Hamilton County, Ohio Community Development Advisory Committee Sep 2017 – Present (7 years)</p> <p>Colerain Chamber of Commerce Member Board Of Directors Oct 2016 – Present (3 yrs 6 mos)</p> <p>YMCA of Greater Cincinnati Board Of Directors - Clippard Family Branch Mar 2017 – Mar 2018 (1 yr)</p> <p>Renaissance Covington Board of Directors - Executive Committee Jun 2015 – Oct 2016 (1 yr 5 mos)</p> <p>Covington Business Council Board of Directors Aug 2015 – Oct 2016 (1 yr 3 mos)</p> <p>Colerain Township Community Improvement Corporation Secretary/Treasurer Dec 2013 – May 2015 (1 yr 6 mos)</p>
<p>Other Relevant Experience</p>	<p>I like to joke that I used to have hobbies and now I have a job and family! My wife, daughter, two boys, dogs, chickens and garden are the center of my life. If I'm not working, then my other "relevant experience" is with them.</p>

Name	Justin Milam
Certification	AICP
Contact Email	jmilam@uaoh.net

Position Statement	<p>From its founding to now, APA Ohio has always been a forward-thinking and progressive organization. Through our helpful educational webinars, to our great conferences, and more formal items like our Policy Platform and Guide to Planning in Ohio- we do some amazing work. I want to keep pushing these incredible initiatives forward for the benefit of members, the organization, and for our great State. Some things I would love to bring to APA Ohio:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced mentorship pairing seasoned planners with student planners and young professionals • Statewide evaluation of which communities are due for a Comprehensive Plan update and helping to facilitate that program • Help bring online permitting and digital packets to all Ohio communities • Support and encourage all interested communities to pursue the various environmental certifications such as: Ohio EPA programs, SolSmart and Power a Clean Future Ohio • Create a training program for zoning board members • Enhance relationships with transportation and economic development partners <p>Every city planner should feel optimistic about the many great things and future opportunities in each corner of Ohio. APA Ohio plays a significant role in those initiatives and we need to keep pushing that forward so that we can all share in the success.</p>
--------------------	---

Professional Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Planner with the City of Upper Arlington, 18 years - Master Planning (City Master Plan Update, 2013), Corridor Planning (Lane Avenue, Henderson Road), Neighborhood Plans (River Ridge & Kingsdale West) - Zoning ordinance updates • Planning Intern with Franklin County Economic Development and Planning • LEED Green Associate since 2023 • AICP since 2008
Educational Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masters, The Ohio State University, City and Regional Planning, Concentration in Environmental and Land Use Planning, 2008 • Bachelors, Otterbein University, Business Administration and Economics, Minor in Environmental Studies, 2005
Volunteer Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APA Delegate representing Ohio since 2021 • Has filled in for previous Board members, presented at local and State conferences and served on awards committees • Led Planners on the Run mobile workshops
Other Relevant Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Led the update to the Central Ohio Regional Sustainability Agenda and then the creation of a Dashboard to track progress (2020-22) • MORPC Sustainable Advisory Committee member (2018-2022) • MORPC Blueways Steering Committee member (2024-Present) • Named a Climate Champion with the APA Sustainable Communities Division • APA Peer Reviewer for AICP applications and conference sessions • Led community through a variety of designations: SolSmart Gold, Ohio EPA Encouraging Environmental Excellence, CDP Cities, Power a Clean Future Ohio, and others.

Name	Jesse Urbancsik
Certification	NA
Contact Email	jesse.urbancsik@cincinnati-oh.gov
Position Statement	<p>Working for the City of Cincinnati has brought the housing crisis front and center within not only Cincinnati, but the country as whole. Jesse's main priorities include housing, clear and transparent community and engagement, promoting multi-modal transportation options, zoning reform, and smart development and urban design.</p> <p>Specific issues and other topics Jesse is passionate about include: increasing density and housing supply, creating and branding microneighborhoods, pedestrian safety prioritization, commercial to residential conversions (mainly in downtown high rises and skyscrapers), eliminating parking requirements, urban green spaces in conjunction with resident's mental well-being, urban gentrification and its socioeconomic implications, the synergy of architecture and urban planning, the psychology of being a public servant, and the role of artificial intelligence in future urban planning. Jesse will continue educating and informing APA members as well as recruiting more members who are passionate on the same topics as well and want to continue making Ohio an amazing place to live.</p>
Professional Experience	<p>Jesse is a Senior City Planner with the Department of City Planning and Engagement for the City of Cincinnati. During his three years with the City, he has become the supervisor for the City subdivision process, manages the social media and GIS aspects of the Planning Dept., works with neighborhoods on their plans, presents monthly to City Planning Commission and City Council, and is assisting with the City-wide zoning reform project, Connected Communities. Prior to his time at the City, Jesse worked at Colerain Township for four and a half years as a within the Zoning and Economic Development Departments. Jesse is committed to a career in public service and urban planning.</p>
Educational Background	<p>Jesse is a proud graduate from the University of Cincinnati having graduated in 2018 with his Bachelor in Urban Planning.</p>
Volunteer Activities	<p>Jesse is currently enrolled in the AICP Candidate Program and would love to help promote educational opportunities to get more fellow planners involved with APA. He regularly attends and helps plan APA conferences and events, including the David J. Allor Planning & Zoning Workshops and creating the Jared Ellis Memorial Award scholarship fund. Jesse additionally loves to attend local happy hour events with colleagues and previous classmates.</p>

Other Relevant Experience	Jesse has also planned other events, such as community engagement events for Connected Communities, the Housing Summit, and is volunteering to assist with tours through the CNU Conference this year. He also is a strong urban advocate and plans to continue partnering with Strong Towns. His love for urban areas and travel, being an extroverted young professional, and having a strong desire to continue making Cincinnati (and Ohio) a great place to work and live would ultimately make Jesse a great addition to the APA Ohio Board. Urban is even half of his last name. Go Bearcats!

Name	Megha Sinha
Certification	AICP
Contact Email	msinha@nbbj.com
Position Statement	<p>Why I Choose to Serve: As a planner employed in the Ohio-based office of a globally engaged firm, I have the privilege of practicing across the world, while also being fully immersed in planning in Ohio. Over the last 16 years I have collaborated with diverse communities across Ohio – urban, suburban, and rural – from projects spanning multiple counties to a single acre parcel. I have partnered with planners, allied professionals, and community members from diverse geographic and cultural backgrounds. I strongly agree that planning plays a critical role “to maintain and improve the quality of life for all Ohioans.” I have made a commitment to leverage my diverse experiences and pay it forward through my service on local planning and civic boards, and professional organizations, including the APA Ohio. It was, therefore, a great honor and a wonderful service opportunity to join the APA Ohio Board in 2019 and 2021. I seek re-election so I may continue contributing to APA Ohio.</p> <p>My Ongoing Contributions to the Board: During my tenure in the Board, I’ve had the opportunity to develop our chapter’s 2019 Strategic Plan and in the following years have helped action the tactics in support our strategic priorities and I look forward to furthering those. APA Ohio is a working Board. I will lean in and contribute with my leadership wherever the APA Ohio and its members need me most. The following examples illustrate where my strengths have helped, and will continue to help, amplify APA Ohio priorities.</p> <p>Expanding Influence: Over the last decade, I have spoken on planning issues at nearly 40 conferences/events. As a thought leader, I have sought to be a voice for emerging planning issues in Ohio, which has led me to speak on critical planning issues at nearly 40 conferences/events on topics such as housing and zoning reform, planning streets for people, technology in planning practice, infrastructure, climate change, environmental justice, equity and access, mixed-use environments, and more. To expand the influence of most pressing concerns of planning in Ohio, I have spoken at not only APA events, but at venues we seek partners – Ohio Economic Development Association, Ohio Institute of Transportation Engineers, AARP Ohio, AIA Ohio, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, Ohio Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, Columbus Metropolitan Club, etc.</p>

Grow Core Strengths: Planning with “foresight” is an important priority for APA. Continuing to provide top-rated professional development and education program is a priority for APA Ohio. Through my first-hand experiences in planning practice locally and globally I will ensure APA Ohio conferences and educational offerings address issues that Ohio planners need to be prepared for.

DEI: Lending My Voice to Activate Diversity in Leadership and Membership: In the summer of 2020, we (APA Ohio Board members) had a sincere dialogue around the lack of diversity, equity and inclusion in our profession and our organization - in our planning student body, chapter membership, and board leadership. To address this urgent issue, a DEI Task Force was formed, and I raised my hand to serve as Chair and helped recruit additional diverse volunteer members to serve on the task force. The 11-member task force worked tirelessly over 6 months with the purpose of developing a framework to assist APA Ohio Board in developing actionable steps toward elevating DEI in our organization and profession. Four categories of impact with specific recommendations were identified. I

I am proud that these recommendations are now embedded in the work of all APA Ohio Board Committees and Board actions. I will continue to lend my voice to further our DEI goals by expanding opportunities for diverse student/young planners, and inclusive membership and leadership within APA Ohio.

Professional Experience

- Principal/Planning & Urban Design at NBBJ, Columbus, OH, March 2020 - Present
- Senior Associate/Planning & Urban Design at NBBJ, Columbus, OH, March 2015- Present
- Associate/Planning & Urban Design at NBBJ, Columbus OH, March 2011-Feb 2014
- Planner/Planning & Urban Design at NBBJ, Columbus OH, July 2010-Feb 2012
- Instructor at Ohio University, Department of Geography, Athens, OH, Sep. 2009 – May 2010
- Planner II at Shepley Bulfinch Richardson & Abbott, Boston, MA, August 2006 - September 2008
- Research/Graduate Assistant at Center for Urban Studies, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY, Sep. 2004- May 2006
- Intern at International Economic Development Council, Washington D.C. May 2005– August 2005

Educational Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="462 73 1489 210">• Master's in Urban & Regional Planning (M.U.P.), May 2006 University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, Buffalo, NY Specialization Certificates: 1. Environmental & Physical Planning; 2. Community Development & Urban Management <li data-bbox="462 231 1489 321">• Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch.), Honors, April 2003 University of Mumbai, India
------------------------	---

Volunteer Activities

- APA Ohio Board of Trustee - At Large - 2019-2020; 2021-Present
- APA Ohio DEI Task Force Chair, 2020
- APA Change Ambassador Member Group: Working to advance equity, 2023
- Central Ohio APA Chapter Committee At-Large Member, 2019-2020
- Mentor for AICP Candidate Program and APA Mentor Match, February 2019-2022
- Represented APA Ohio chapter at the NPC20 Delegate Assembly
- NPC20 National Planning Conference; session title: Build Political Will Using “Grasstops” Advocacy
- 2023 Annual Ohio Planning Conference; session title: Foresight: Planning for People with a Planet-First Mindset
- 2019 National Planning Conference; session title: Technology’s Impact on the Planning Practice
- 2019 Annual Ohio Planning Conference (Cleveland); session title: Maturing Communities Evolve
- Panelist at the Strong Women Strong Places event hosted by APA Central Ohio + The City and Regional Planning Student Association, February 2019
- Workshop Coordinator at 2018 National Planning Conference; workshop title: New Orleans Revitalized: The Biomedical District
- Session Presenter at the 2017 Annual Ohio Planning Conference (Athens); session title: Technology in Society and the Impact on Planning
- Session Presenter at the 2019, 2018, 2017, and 2016 Central Ohio Planning and Zoning Conference:
 - 2019 session title: Co-creating a Civic Spaces and Places Framework for the City of Grandview Heights
 - 2018 session title: Embracing Smart Growth: The Delaware County Route 36/37 Corridor Study
 - 2017 session title: How Multiple Institutions Can Partner for Successful Neighborhood Planning: A Case Study
 - 2016 session title: Connecting Campus and Community: Comprehensive Transportation Planning at OSU
- Conference Organizing Committee Member
 - 2020, 2019, 2018 and 2017 Central Ohio Planning and Zoning Conference
 - 2023, 2017 Annual Ohio Planning Conference

<p>Other Relevant Experience</p>	<p>Community Involvement/Affiliations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic Resources Commissioner, City of Columbus, August 2021-Present • Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Sustainability Advisory Committee, 2021-Present • Society for College and University Planning (SCUP) North Central Regional Council Committee Professional Development Co-Chair 2019-Present • Planning and Zoning Commissioner, City of Canal Winchester - May 2021-February 2022 • Mentor for ULI YLG Mentorship Program, 2022 • Keynote Panelist at 2022 MORPC Summit on Sustainability: Moving the Needle on Environmental Justice, October 2022 • Featured Speaker at OCASALA (American Society of Landscape Architects Ohio Chapter) Centering Diversity Summit: Diversity in Practice, October 2022 • Ohio Institute of Transportation Engineers Annual President’s Meeting Keynote: Re-imagining Cities; November 2021 • Mentor for ULI Hines Student Competition, 2021 • Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) Diversity in Local Government Working Group, June-October 2018 • LEED Accredited Professional Building Design & Construction, United States Green Building Council • Volunteer Member of the Built Environment Transportation Infrastructure Working Group of the Columbus Green Team, July 2016 – July 2017 • Co-organizer of the “Purpose Region” Workshop hosted by MORPC (Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission) and NBBJ, March 2017 • Participant, 2015 Global Health Hackathon, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX • Participant, Transit Columbus GOOD IDEAS Initiative, Feb-April 2014