

THE OHIO PLANNER'S NEWS

MEET YOUR APA OHIO
LEADERSHIP





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The Ohio Planners News
 PO Box 4085 Copley OH 44321
 330-814-6295

Editor
Christine Dersi Davis, AICP

info@ohioplanning.org
www.ohioplanning.org

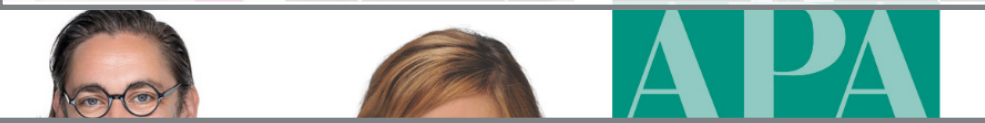


American Planning Association
Ohio Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

VOLUME 75 ISSUE 1

APA Ohio operates under the guidance of a 24-member Board of Trustees elected from the general membership and sections. Learn more about our board members at www.ohioplanning.org/board.



THE NEW FRONTIER

SPC 25

TOLEDO | September 24-26

Join Us in the New Frontier

SPC25 is heading to the vibrant city of Toledo, Ohio!

We're pushing aside tradition in favor of the new and innovative. We're paving the way toward a new frontier in professional development, and we want you to be part of it. Join us for session deep dives, technical workshops, imaginative networking opportunities, fireside chats, young professional and student events, and so much more.

CALL FOR SESSIONS

DUE APRIL 30
learn more
ohioplanning.org/conference

The First, First Word



Martin Kim, AICP
APA Ohio President

Martin Kim, AICP, is the Director of MVRPC in Dayton, Ohio and APA Ohio President. He can be reached at mkim@mvrpc.org.

MY FELLOW OHIO PLANNERS,

I am honored and excited to serve as the new APA Ohio President for the next two years, starting in 2025!

To introduce myself, I am the Director of Community and Regional Planning at the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC), a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), in Dayton, Ohio. I have been with the agency for almost 25 years, where I direct regional planning and GIS initiatives and manage community planning and data services to help local communities in the Dayton metropolitan region with their planning and policy development efforts.

I have been involved with APA Ohio for many years, having first joined the APA National back in 1997. I began serving on the APA Ohio Board of Trustees in 2019, and it has been a great honor, privilege, and experience for me.

Last year, APA Ohio adopted its updated [2025-2029 Strategic Plan](#). APA Ohio is dedicated to advancing the art, science, and practice of planning to create vibrant communities that are equipped to anticipate and navigate change. To achieve this important mission, we have set four strategic goals:

- **INFORM:** Encourage dissemination of information and education
- **ADVANCE:** Engage and influence legislative and policy outcomes
- **PROMOTE:** Elevate stories to support the profession
- **DEVELOP:** Enhance services for existing and future members

I look forward to collaborating with my fellow APA Ohio Board of Trustees and our Chapter Executive Director, Christine Davis, to further our mission and goals together!

We offer great advocacy, educational, and networking events at the National, State, and local Section levels throughout the year. Here are some of the upcoming events to highlight:

- **2025 State Planning Conference (SPC25):** SPC25 will be hosted in Toledo, OH, from September 24 to 26 at the Renaissance Toledo Downtown Hotel. Our Northwest Section Leadership Team and SCP25 Committee members are working hard to prepare for the event. Please save the date and stay tuned for more information.
- **Planning & Zoning Workshops:** Each of our five sections hosts popular Planning & Zoning Workshops every year. Congratulations to our Cincinnati Section for hosting a successful David J. Allor Planning & Zoning Workshop on February 28! Next up is the Cleveland Section, which will host its 2025 Planning & Zoning Workshop on May 15. Followed by Northeast Ohio on June 13, Central Ohio on August 22, and Miami Valley on December 5. Please save the date and look for more information soon.

Finally, I would like to thank our past and present APA Ohio Board members, especially immediate past President Eric Anderson, AICP for their leadership, dedication, and contributions to the APA Ohio Chapter and all Ohio planners. Thank you!

I look forward to meeting you in person and working with you over the next two years! I encourage you to continue to stay involved and engaged with APA Ohio!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maf: Hsu K." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

Visit ohioplanning.org/calendar for all upcoming events and more information.

APRIL

April 18, 2025

Web Skills & Platforms for Planners
Planning Webcast Series

April 24, 2025

APA Central Ohio Happy Hour
Jackie O's on Fourth @ 5:00 pm

April 24, 2025

APA + AIA Cincinnati Joint Event
UC Union Hall Classroom @ 5:30 pm

MAY

May 2, 2025

Reflections from School Food Planners
Planning Webcast Series

May 8, 2025

2025 Ohio Brownfields Conference
Westerville

May 9, 2025

Lessons from the Student Competition
Planning Webcast Series

May 15, 2025

APA Cleveland P&Z Workshop
Independence

May 16, 2025

Codes for Water and Fire Risk
Planning Webcast Series

May 30, 2025

APA's Housing Supply Playbook
Planning Webcast Series

JUNE

June 13, 2025

Northeast Ohio P&Z Workshop
Niles

June 27, 2025

APA Ohio Board Meeting
Upper Arlington

June 6, 2025

Utility Scale Renewable Energy
Planning Webcast Series

June 20, 2025

Who Owns America?
Planning Webcast Series

UPCOMING SECTION EVENTS

More information and registration is available at www.ohioplanning.org/calendar

APA CENTRAL OHIO

APA Central Ohio Happy Hour
April 24, 2025 | Jackie O's on Fourth

Central Ohio Planning & Zoning Workshop
August 22, 2025 | Save the Date

APA CINCINNATI

APA Cincinnati + AIA Joint Event: Strategies for Revitalizing Our Cities, Communities, Urban Districts
April 24, 2025 | UC Union Hall Classroom

APA CLEVELAND

APA Cleveland Planning & Zoning Workshop
May 15, 2025 | Independence

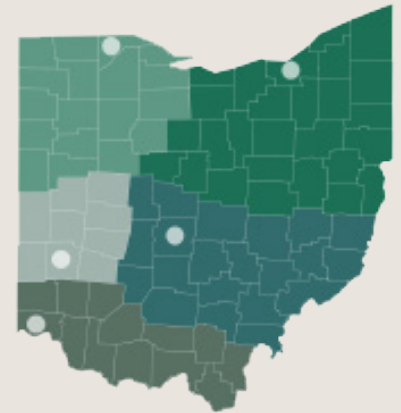
APA Northeast Ohio Planning & Zoning Workshop
June 13, 2025 | Niles

APA MIAMI VALLEY

2024 Miami Valley Planning & Zoning Workshop
December 5, 2025 | Save the Date

APA NORTHWEST OHIO

Statewide Planning Conference
September 24-26, 2025 | Save the Date



MEMBER BENEFIT

HIGHLIGHT:

One of the benefits to joining APA Ohio is access to the activities and programs coordinated and sponsored by the chapter's various sections. Sections also partner with the chapter to host statewide conferences. Some of the sections meet regularly - either monthly or quarterly - to hear an educational program, network and socialize. Sections also host planning and zoning workshops around the state. Learn more about APA Ohio Sections at www.ohioplanning.org/sections.



APA OHIO MEMBER SHOUT OUTS **WELCOME NEW AICP MEMBERS**

APA Ohio Members are making moves! Kudos to our newest members of AICP!

John R. Willey, AICP

Emily Fernandez, AICP

Hayleigh Coppenger, AICP

Seth Maney, AICP

Paul J Triolo, AICP

Celina Sotka, AICP

Kathryn E Kerber, AICP

Aaron Finley, AICP

Daniel McGrath, AICP

Bailey Morlan, AICP

Samuel Filkins, AICP

Gary A Yelenosky, AICP

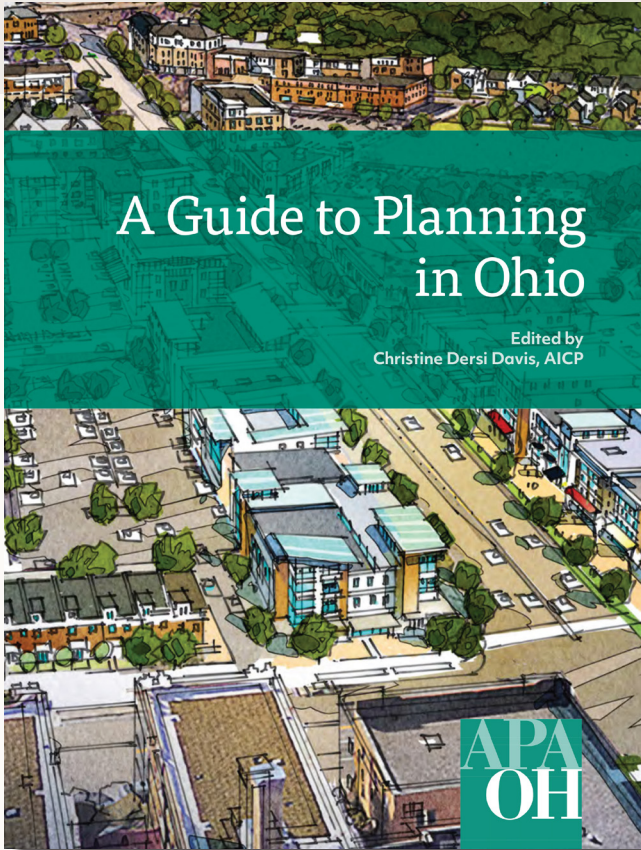
PLANNING WEBCAST SERIES

APA Ohio members
always have free
access



ohioplanning.org/planningwebcast

A GUIDE TO PLANNING IN OHIO



TOPICS

- Enabling Legislation in Ohio
- The Citizen Planners Role in Land Use Decisions
- Ethics and Equity
- Meeting Management
- Comprehensive Planning
- Zoning
- Subdivision Regulations
- Design Review
- Transportation Planning
- Infrastructure Planning
- Environmental Planning
- Planning Across other Fields

WHO SHOULD PURCHASE THE GUIDE?

This newly updated Guide provides valuable insight into the principles of planning as practiced in Ohio today in an approachable language which makes it ideal for:

- ✓ Citizen Planners
- ✓ Professional Planners
- ✓ Allied Professionals
- ✓ Elected Officials
- ✓ Students
- ✓ The Public

www.ohioplanning.org/gtpo

APA OHIO PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

APA Ohio recently joined the Ohio CDBG Coalition to help advocate for the security of these funds in Ohio.



OHIO CDBG COALITION

In February 2025, Ohio's Community Development Block Grant stakeholders formed the Ohio CDBG Coalition. The Ohio CDBG Coalition is a unified voice in response to drastic federal budget cuts threatening the future of housing, community and economic development in Ohio. They are committed to raising awareness, mobilizing stakeholders, and advocating for the full funding and preservation of essential programs like the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) that support affordable housing, small business growth, infrastructure, and critical public services. The coalition will work to ensure that Ohio's communities—particularly those most vulnerable—do not bear the burden of disinvestment.

Mission Statement:

The Ohio CDBG Coalition is a network of stakeholders committed to protecting and strengthening the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program in Ohio. We collaborate to educate policymakers and the public about CDBG's vital role in supporting housing, infrastructure, economic development, and public services. Through strategic advocacy and shared data, we aim to secure sustainable federal funding levels that empower local governments—urban, suburban, and rural—to address pressing community needs and drive equitable development across the state.



Learn more about the CDBG Coalition and support our efforts! Complete a short survey to tell the story of how your community uses HUD funds to create great communities for all.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/2tc3b7x4> to tell your story.



EMPOWERING FUTURE PLANNERS

Riverside's "It's Your City, It's Your World" Workshops helps kids explore a vision for their community.

By Nia Holt, AICP



From February to early March 2025, Riverside's future city planners were hard at work—albeit with a set of markers, stickers, and poster boards in hand. Over several weeks, city planning workshops called *It's Your City, It's Your World* were held in Mad River School District's third-grade classrooms. This program, led by the City of Riverside's Community Development Department in partnership with the Miami Valley Section of the Ohio APA Chapter and the Stebbins High Teacher's Academy,

was more than just an educational program. It was an intentional collaboration that engaged students, local volunteers, and community leaders in the shared goal of envisioning a brighter, more vibrant future for Riverside.

The hands-on workshops provided students with the opportunity to think creatively and practically about how they would design their ideal city. With the guidance of volunteers from all walks of life, participants explored the fundamentals of urban planning and development.

Nearly 50 dedicated volunteers—ranging from seasoned professionals to local community members—engaged with students in ways that sparked their imagination and demonstrated the importance of being active participants in shaping the City of Riverside.

It's Your City, It's Your World was carefully crafted by the Community Development Department, with planning starting in the summer of 2024. In consultation with Corrin Wendell, AICP, the Founder and Executive Director of the Youth Engagement Program (YEP!), the team ensured that the workshops would be engaging, fun, and age-appropriate for the third graders. The students gained insight into the principles of urban planning, the ONE Riverside Land Use Plan, and the importance of thoughtful development through a brief presentation.

The second part of the workshop was an activity in which students worked together to determine what land uses they wanted to see in their version of Riverside. By placing different types of buildings and land uses on a city map, students examined how communities work together to decide where land uses should go

for a balanced and thriving environment. This opened the door for them to explore other critical community aspects such as walkability, proximity to entertainment and necessities (like grocery stores and workplaces), and the value of green space. For many of the students, these workshops provided the first introduction to the planning profession and what it means to shape a city's future.

“ This program is a wonderful example of how local government can engage with its youngest residents in a meaningful way. ”

The program not only encouraged students to learn about the role of planning in the City of Riverside but also helped them see the value of collaboration. Volunteers from diverse backgrounds shared their knowledge and experiences, fostering a sense of collective responsibility among the students. By working together with community leaders, students learned that their ideas and contributions matter in the process of designing a city that serves everyone.





“This program is a wonderful example of how local government can engage with its youngest residents in a meaningful way,” said Nia Holt, the Director of the Community Development Department. “We’ve always believed that it’s important to empower our community’s future leaders and let them know their voice matters. They are an important part of shaping Riverside and ensuring the goals of the

ONE Riverside plan are realized.” The workshops were an opportunity to highlight Riverside’s ongoing commitment to fostering a new generation of thinkers, planners and future leaders. The program’s focus was not just on teaching students about planning but also on inspiring them to dream big and take ownership of the future of their community. The City of Riverside is proud to invest in its young

residents, encouraging them to think critically about their environment and to consider how they can contribute to a more sustainable, equitable, and livable future for all. For more information about the ONE Riverside Land Use Plan and future community development programs, visit the City of Riverside’s Community Development Department webpage or email zoning@riverside.gov.

Nia Holt, AICP is the Community Development Director for the City of Riverside, Ohio and APA Ohio Board Member. She can be reached at NHolt@riversideoh.gov.



MEMBER BENEFITS

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP

As a valued member of our organization, we want to highlight top membership benefits available. Learn more about your chapter benefits at www.ohioplanning.org/memberbenefits.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Planning Webcast Series is free to APA Ohio members and connects you with weekly webinars on timely and trending planning topics, each worth CM credit.
- A Guide to Planning in Ohio Second Edition (2023) is a resource intended to provide the citizens and planners of Ohio with an understanding of the principals of planning as practiced in Ohio today. Purchase your copy today!
- AICP Study Prep Webinars
- Citizen Planner Training Series provides low-cost professional development to locally appointed and elected planning and zoning officials throughout Ohio.
- Local Planning & Zoning Workshops (discounts for members!)
- 2025 APA Ohio Planning Conference takes place September 24-26, 2025 in Toledo and will feature innovative sessions, deep dive discussions, mobile workshops, and more (discounts for members)!

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

- APA Ohio Policy Platform
- Planners Advocacy Days
- Find Your Ohio Legislators
- Calls to Action (sent to your email)

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Your membership connects you to planners across Ohio through our Membership Directory. Create or update your member profile — it instantly links you to planning friends and colleagues across the state.

CAREER CENTER

The APA Ohio Career Center gets well over 1,000 hits a month and is updated daily. Submit your opening or RFQ for free as a member. View open positions and RFQs for free.

CONSULTANT DIRECTORY

Looking to directly target Ohio consultants? Look no further than the APA Ohio Consultant Directory.

AWARDS PROGRAMS

APA Ohio's biennial Awards Programs honor outstanding planning and planning leadership in Ohio, recognizing the highest levels of achievement. This is an opportunity to highlight the best and brightest plans, projects, places and people in Ohio! The next round of awards kicks off this spring.

STAYING IN TOUCH

- The Ohio Planners News
- Weekly eNEWS (sent to your email)
- Chapter Calendar
- Latest News

SCHOLARSHIPS

APA Ohio offers a variety of student, memorial, diversity, project, and conference Scholarships throughout the year.

MEMBERSHIP DUES RELIEF

Life happens. We get it! APA offers temporary membership and AICP dues relief for those who qualify. Learn more at www.planning.org/join/unemployed/form.



Eric Anderson, AICP

APA Ohio Immediate Past President

Eric Anderson, AICP, is Vice President and Director of Planning at KZF Design in Cincinnati and APA Ohio Immediate Past President. He can be reached at eric.anderson@kzf.com.

The Last, First Word

DEAR APA OHIO MEMBERS,

As I reflect on my tenure as President of APA Ohio from 2023 to 2024, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for what we have accomplished together. Our collective efforts have not only advanced the planning profession but also significantly enhanced the quality of life across Ohio's communities.

- The #BecauseWePlan initiative continued to amplify the critical role of planning in community development.
- We conducted AICP exam prep sessions, PDO office hours and successfully hosted the State Planning Conference and OKI Regional Planning Conference, fostering professional growth.
- We updated the Guide to Planning in Ohio and actively influenced state policies impacting our communities.
- We proudly recognized Uptown Westerville as the 2023 APA Ohio Great Place, celebrating its exemplary planning and vibrant community spirit.
- We updated our Strategic Plan, emphasizing enhancing professional development, increasing outreach and inclusivity, strengthening local advocacy, and elevating the profile of the planning profession statewide.



As my term concludes, I am delighted to introduce our new President, Martin Kim, AICP. Martin brings a wealth of experience and a visionary outlook that will undoubtedly boost APA Ohio to new heights.

I also extend a warm welcome to our President-Elect, Geoff Milz, AICP. Geoff's experience on the board and extensive background in planning and economic development, particularly in affordable housing, position him well to lead our organization in addressing critical issues facing our communities.



I want to extend a heartfelt and profound thank you to our Executive Director, Christine Dersi Davis, AICP. Christine's passion and tireless efforts have been instrumental in propelling APA Ohio forward. We are deeply grateful for her continued commitment to the profession and passion for planning.

And finally, a heartfelt thank you to our outgoing Past President, Rachel Ray, AICP. Rachel's dedication and leadership have been instrumental in guiding APA Ohio, and her contributions have left an indelible mark on our organization.



The future of APA Ohio is bright. With our updated strategic plan as our foundation and our new leadership at the helm, we are poised to continue our mission and create great communities for all.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your President. I look forward to supporting Martin, Geoff, Christine, and all APA Ohio members as we continue this important work together.

Sincerely,

APA OHIO LEADERS HAVE A NATIONAL PRESENCE

Eric Anderson was recently appointed to a two-year term on the *APA National Chapter President's Council Executive Committee!* He serves as the AICP Commission Liaison. Way to go, Eric!

Christine Dersi Davis was recently appointed as Chair of the *APA National Leadership Development Committee* to lead efforts in developing the APA leadership pipeline across the country. Christine is also an Executive Committee member of the *APA National Executive Directors and Administrators Component Group*. Yay, Chris!

APA OH

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION OHIO CHAPTER

 www.ohioplanning.org/sponsor

APA Ohio is a statewide, non-profit association of over 1,500 citizen and professional planners committed to promoting and enhancing planning and the quality of planning for all governmental entities in order to maintain and improve the quality of life for all Ohioans. APA Ohio is a chapter of the American Planning Association (APA).

APA Ohio provides regional and statewide forums for investigation and discussion. These forums lead to practical, use-it-today solutions to planning and development challenges. APA Ohio encourages legislation and action programs to enhance sound planning at the state, regional and local levels.

APA Ohio sponsors regional and state conferences and supports section-level workshops. These events provide opportunities for members to make new contacts, renew old ones, recognize achievements, and exchange ideas.





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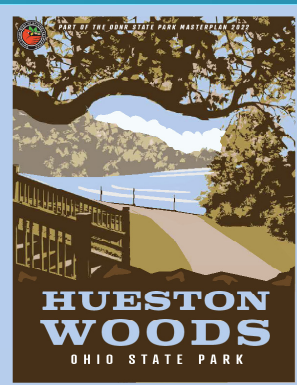


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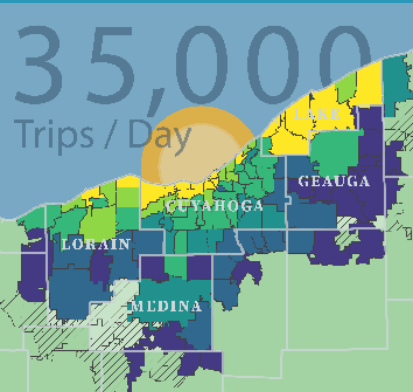
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