



MORNING SCHEDULE

ROOMS ARE SPONSORED BY:



	BALLROOM 1	BALLROOM 2	INDEPENDENCE	BROADVIEW HTS
7:30 – 8:00 AM	Registration/Check-in (Hallway)			
8:00 – 9:30 AM	Keynote Breakfast (Ballrooms 3 & 4) SPONSORED BY: Better Codes Make Better Places			
9:45 – 10:45 AM	Zoning by Design: Upgrading Code with Form and Frontage Strategies in Cain Park Village	The Circle East District: Challenges and Opportunities in Building a New Commercial and Residential Market	Comprehensive Planning: Is Something Really Better than Nothing?	SS4A and Roadway Safety
11:00 AM – 12:00 AM	State of the Union, Ohio Policy Center	From Vision to Reality: How to Create, Finance, and Execute on a Master Plan to Deliver on Your Community's Priorities	Revitalizing the Mahoning River Corridor: A Multi-Jurisdictional Success Story	Municipal Masterpieces: Overview of Public Art in Cuyahoga County

OUR EVENT SPONSORS:








Maxine Goodman Levin
School of Urban Affairs

LEVIN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND EDUCATION
CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY

Thursday, May 15, 2025 | Independence Conference Center
www.ohioplanning.org/clevelandworkshop

AFTERNOON SCHEDULE

	BALLROOM 1	BALLROOM 2	INDEPENDENCE	BROADVIEW HTS
12:00 — 1:15 PM	Lunch (Ballrooms 3 & 4)			
	<p>SPONSORED BY:</p>   <p>Cuyahoga COUNTY PLANNING Commission</p>			
1:30 — 2:30 PM	Zoning for the Future in Garfield Heights	Land Use and Development Law: Legal and Practical Considerations for Planners	Fun Things Planners Do	Survey We Go! Community & Non-Random Sample Surveys
2:45 — 3:45 PM	Connecting People to the Park: Extending the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad to Cleveland	Great Northern Rebirth: The Path Towards a New Mall	Bradstreet's Landing: Perseverance Then and Now	Transforming Municipal Permitting: Speed, Accuracy, and Customer Service in the Digital Age
3:45 — 5:00 PM	After Hours Social (Club Impulse)			
	<p>SPONSORED BY:</p>   			

OUR EVENT SPONSORS:



Thursday, May 15, 2025 | Independence Conference Center
www.ohioplanning.org/clevelandworkshop

PROUD SPONSOR OF APA OHIO

RDL Architects: Designing environments that define and uplift the human experience.



RDL
ARCHITECTS

BRING YOUR VISION TO LIFE

rdlarchitects.com



Our Services

- Construction Management
- Campgrounds & Camps
- Ecological Services
- Economic Development
- EDG Creative
- Grants & Funding
- Parks
- Right-of-Way Acquisition
- Site Development
- Stormwater
- Surveying
- Trails & Active Transportation
- Transportation Planning & Engineering
- Water/Wastewater Engineering



Environmental
Design Group

envdesigngroup.com | 800.835.1390

Thursday, May 15, 2025 | Independence Conference Center
www.ohioplanning.org/clevelandworkshop

MORNING SESSIONS

8:00 — 9:30 PM KEYNOTE BREAKFAST (Ballrooms 3 & 4)



The Cleveland Foundation: Community Foundations for the 21st Century

Keynote Speaker: Joyce Pan Huang | Chief Impact Officer, Cleveland Foundation

The Cleveland Foundation seeks to define place-based community philanthropy for the 21st century, boldly inspiring through catalytic investments such as a move to the MidTown and Hough neighborhoods, the creation of the Cleveland Impact Pool, and the work of a new impact strategy. During this keynote address, Joyce Pan Huang will cover how urban planning dovetails with philanthropy to spur impact in the region so that no Clevelander will be left behind.

Keynote Bio: Joyce Pan Huang joined the Cleveland Foundation in January 2025 as the organization's first chief impact officer. In this position, she will leverage the foundation's resources and convening power to build partnerships and drive place-based strategies to address some of the most persistent challenges facing Greater Cleveland. Prior to this role, Huang was appointed by Mayor Justin M. Bibb as the first female, Asian American Director

of City Planning for the City of Cleveland. As the Planning Director, Huang led impactful community-based neighborhood planning efforts, policy change in land use, zoning, and transportation, and process improvements in city government. She also served as the vice president of community development at MidTown Cleveland, Inc., an economic and community development organization serving in the city's MidTown and AsiaTown neighborhoods.

Huang has served as a board member of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, the Federal Reserve of Cleveland Community Advisory Council, Vibrant NEO 2040, and the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission. Joyce holds a Master's in Urban Planning, Design and Development from Cleveland State University's Levin College of Urban Affairs, where she was awarded the achievement of American Planning Association's Outstanding Planning Student. She also holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology with a minor in environmental studies from the University of Michigan. After graduating, she worked in campus ministry in Northeast Ohio, an experience which shaped her human-centered leadership style, passion for leadership development, and community building work. A transplant from the Rochester, NY area, Joyce has lived in the Cleveland area for nearly two decades.

KEYNOTE BREAKFAST SPONSORED BY:



Thursday, May 15, 2025 | Independence Conference Center
www.ohioplanning.org/clevelandworkshop

MORNING SESSIONS

9:45 — 10:45 AM SESSIONS

Ballroom 1	<p>Zoning by Design: Upgrading Code with Form and Frontage Strategies in Cain Park Village Gregory Soltis Eric Zamft Karen Knittle Matthew Wymer</p> <p>This session uses the update of Cleveland Heights' C2-X mixed-use zoning district as a case study to explore strategies for incorporating form-based code principles into traditional zoning frameworks. Particular focus will be given to frontage requirements—key components in creating walkable, engaging, urban environments. This case study goes beyond conventional frontage zoning by introducing an innovative concept: the interior frontage zone, which considers how interior spaces adjacent to the street can contribute to the public realm. Additionally, this session will demonstrate how design thinking and zoning reform can work together to achieve more intentional, people-centered urban environments. The zoning code updates were based on the neighborhood vision plan, which ensured the new zoning supports and enhances, rather than undermines, the community's unique identity. Rather than simply applying best practices, this approach starts with desired outcomes—then works backward to develop zoning that supports them.</p>
Ballroom 2	<p>The Circle East District: Challenges and Opportunities in Building a New Commercial and Residential Market Kamla Lewis Frank Camardo Josh Slaga Najae Jackson</p> <p>The session will examine the challenges and opportunities involved with redeveloping a 30-acre neighborhood in East Cleveland where the city lacks the traditional capacity, funding, and experience to implement redevelopment, but most needs this type of assistance to rebuild. We'll hear the perspectives of some of the key stakeholder groups involved about what they have learned.</p>
Independence	<p>Comprehensive Planning: Is Something Really Better Than Nothing? Christine Dersi Davis Sarah Kelly</p> <p>Anything goes in Ohio when it comes to comprehensive planning. The ORC does not set standards for what must—or even should—be included in a comprehensive plan. The result: comprehensive plans across the state are far from equal in quality and impact. Listen in on an overview of this issue, and join a lively discussion in which we'll work through ways to remedy this problem so that all communities in Ohio thrive.</p>
Broadview Hts	<p>SS4A and Roadway Safety Darryll Wolnik Sarah Jamal</p> <p>Roadway Safety Action Plans are an integral transportation planning tool for helping a community create an equitable and safe transportation network. This session covers best practices, approaches, community engagement, and information on the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program.</p>



MORNING SESSIONS

11:00 AM — 12:00 PM SESSIONS

Ballroom 1	<p>State of the Union, Ohio Policy Center Jason Warner</p> <p>Lawmakers are working on crafting Ohio's next two-year state budget. While the budget cleared the House in April, Senators are reviewing proposals from Governor DeWine and the House to develop their own version of the state budget that will likely be approved in early June. In this session, you will learn more about what is being proposed by lawmakers and how proposals in the budget could impact the work of planners throughout Ohio from Jason Warner, Director of Strategic Engagement at the Greater Ohio Policy Center.</p>
Ballroom 2	<p>From Vision to Reality: How to Create, Finance, and Execute on a Master Plan to Deliver on your Community's Priorities Greg Peltz Arin Blair Rob McCarthy</p> <p>Cleveland is renowned for its plans— the Group Plan of 1903, the Lakefront Plans (all 17 of them), the Cleveland Jetport—all of them grand, some of them accomplished, many others never attempted. Taking those plans from the page and into the real world is a difficult task, but it can be done with the correct combination of planning, community buy-in, and knowledge of how to leverage economic development tools to finance the necessary improvements. Brendan Heil and Rob McCarthy from Bricker Graydon will discuss best practices and economic development tools that will enable stakeholders to take those visions and turn them into a reality. The session will use case studies from successful master planning processes throughout Ohio that were able to execute on the vision to transform their community's built environment as a way to show how your community can successfully build towards its future.</p>
Independence	<p>Revitalizing the Mahoning River Corridor: A Multi-Jurisdictional Success Story Katie Phillips Bianca Rozenblad City of Niles Mayor, Steve Mientkiewicz</p> <p>This session will explore the process of transforming the Mahoning River corridor through a multi-jurisdictional planning effort that has led to significant riverfront redevelopment and environmental restoration. Stemming from a master plan completed in 2021, this initiative spans 13 communities across Mahoning and Trumbull counties, integrating economic development, recreation, and ecological restoration. Attendees will learn how strategic planning has driven projects such as new parks, trails, kayak launches, and historic riverfront building renovations. This coordinated approach has not only reshaped public perception of the Mahoning River—from a polluted remnant of the industrial past to a thriving natural asset—but also fostered collaboration among municipalities, stakeholders, and funding partners. The session will provide insights into project coordination, funding strategies, and the long-term benefits of regional riverfront planning.</p>
Broadview Hts	<p>Municipal Masterpieces: Overview of Public Art in Cuyahoga County Maribeth Feke Amanda Cramer Tarra Petras David Wilson</p> <p>Public art can enhance communities through the beauty, color, and stories they tell. They allow communities to not only voice but graphically portray their spirit in their area. Public art is blossoming all over Northeast Ohio, and in this session, public art programs of the City of Lakewood, the Cleveland, GCRTA, as well as other projects in the region will be discussed. This session will be a panel discussion among city leaders, consultants, and staff. Panelists will highlight key projects and programs, their benefits and difficulties, and overall process, including costs and the time to complete these projects. The panel discussion will also showcase a gallery of these public art projects that will help inspire attendees to undertake these projects in their communities.</p>

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

12:00 — 1:15 PM LUNCH (Ballrooms 3 & 4)

APA Cleveland Remarks and 2025 APA Student Awards

During lunch, APA Cleveland leadership will provide an overview of the Chapter's initiatives, successes, and updates. They will also be presenting the 2025 APA Student Awards. The APA Student Award recognizes exemplary Cleveland State University (CSU) planning students who demonstrate a commitment and passion to the planning profession. Awardees were selected based upon a combination of academic achievement, community and professional involvement, and APA participation.

LUNCH SPONSORED BY:



Cuyahoga
COUNTY PLANNING
Commission

Let's Build Better Together.

Civic Uplift partners with public sector leaders, planners, and civic changemakers to tackle today's most pressing challenges. From data collection and analysis to strategy development and implementation, we bring clarity, structure, and momentum to the work that matters most.

Whether you're launching a new initiative, or reimagining your public engagement strategy, we're here to help you uplift what's possible.



✉ info@civicuplift.org

☎ (614) 808-6820

🌐 CivicUplift.org

Affordable Housing • Community Development • Economic Development • Community Planning

Thursday, May 15, 2025 | Independence Conference Center
www.ohioplanning.org/clevelandworkshop

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

1:30 PM — 2:30 PM SESSIONS

Ballroom 1	<p>Zoning for the Future in Garfield Heights Arthur Schmidt Nolan Nicaise Janice Tubbs John Lippus City of Garfield Heights Mayor, Matt Burke</p> <p>This session will be a panel discussion about the history of Garfield Heights' development, the building of I-480, and some of its current challenges. It will focus on the ongoing zoning code update project. Some topics will include (1) upgrades to Turney Road, (2) zoning for marijuana, (3) infill housing, and (4) land use changes via referendum vote. The talk will highlight tips for balancing stability and flexibility in a code as well as a model process for adopting a new code.</p>
Ballroom 2	<p>Land Use and Development Law: Legal and Practical Considerations for Planners Majeed G Makhoulf Gregory SJ Soltis</p> <p>This engaging and informative session will provide urban planners with an in-depth exploration of the legal and practical aspects of land use and development. Participants will gain insights into the complexities of site selection, zoning, environmental regulations, and the construction process, all within the framework of applicable laws and best practices. The session is designed to help planners navigate the legal landscape while making informed decisions that support sustainable and legally compliant development. Key topics covered include the site selection process, the zoning process, environmental approvals and permits, traffic and access approvals and permits, and information about handling the construction process. This session is eligible for AICP law credits and will provide valuable legal knowledge applicable to real-world planning and development challenges.</p>
Independence	<p>Fun Things Planners Do Joyce Braverman Phil Kidd David Jurca Allison Lukacsy-Love</p> <p>Some planners go above and beyond to use creative methods to enhance their work and engage in extra-curricular activities to benefit the community. In this session, you will hear from a panel of planners about how they incorporated different methods in their projects to engage the community. Some of the projects that will be covered include the Awesome Foundation, Phone Gallery, Pecha Kucha Cleveland, and EveryStreetCleveland.com. This session will also cover seasonal activation of public space and the use of AI in community engagement.</p>
Broadview Hts	<p>Survey We Go! Community & Non-Random Sample Surveys Paul Triolo Rachel Novak Orange Village Mayor, Judson Kline</p> <p>Cuyahoga County planning Commission's approach to opt-in surveys integrates a layered review that creates benchmarks for fact-checking survey demographics against U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) data. This process seeks to improve upon targeted outreach strategies tailored toward key underrepresented groups within the survey population—striving toward a good and representative sample.</p>

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

2:45 — 3:45 PM SESSIONS

Ballroom 1	<p>Connecting People to the Park: Extending the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad to Cleveland Chris Urban Calley Mersmann Grace Gallucci Larry Stevenson Lisa Petit</p> <p>The proposed Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad (CVSR) Extension will provide benefits to diverse communities within the City of Cleveland by making the Cuyahoga Valley National Park more accessible without the need of a personal vehicle. The CVSR stations themselves will be accessible by multiple modes of transportation, including transit, bicycling, walking, as well as driving. This new service will ensure that the people in Cleveland neighborhoods can more easily access and benefit from the National Park. This panel will include conversation on how the CVSR Extension, supportive planning efforts, and thoughtful nearby investment can ensure these benefits are realized in an equitable and inclusive manner.</p>
Ballroom 2	<p>Great Northern Rebirth: The Path Towards a New Mall Max Upton Micah Stryker</p> <p>This session will outline the approach that the City of North Olmsted has taken over the past two years to lay the groundwork and framework to facilitate the redevelopment of the Great Northern Mall site. It will touch on suburban retrofit principles, re-greening of suburban shopping centers, and building connectivity.</p>
Independence	<p>Bradstreet's Landing: Perseverance Then and Now Kathryn Kerber Nathan Hilmer</p> <p>The Bradstreet's Landing project began with an abrupt and highly visible closing of the pier in 2017. Eight years later, the noticeable parts of the park have been renovated and re-opened, but the planning continues for one more phase that will give park visitors a new perspective. Throughout the project, the interplay between the public view and "invisible" planning has been critical and at times, reversed from the usual process. Facing more obstacles than Colonel Bradstreet's troops as they walked back to Fort Niagara, Rocky River continues to push for completion of this multi-layered project to satisfy the visions of park visitors, grant providers, permitting agencies, city budgets, small mouth bass, and others.</p>
Broadview Hts	<p>Transforming Municipal Permitting: Speed, Accuracy, and Customer Service in the Digital Age Jennifer Kuzma Kyle Krewson Michael Love</p> <p>The expectations for government services have changed—constituents demand transparency, ease of use, self-service, and speed. Municipal permitting and plan review processes, traditionally slow and paper-heavy, are ripe for transformation. This session explores how local governments can leverage modern technology to create a fully digital, paperless system that enhances customer service, reduces errors, and dramatically improves efficiency.</p>

3:45 — 5:00 PM AFTER HOURS SOCIAL (CLUB IMPULSE)

AFTER HOUR SOCIAL SPONSORED BY:

SMITHGROUP



Thursday, May 15, 2025 | Independence Conference Center
www.ohioplanning.org/clevelandworkshop

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

EVENT SPONSORS



Maxine Goodman Levin
School of Urban Affairs

LEVIN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND EDUCATION
CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY

KEYNOTE BREAKFAST SPONSORS



AFTER HOURS NETWORKING SPONSORS



LUNCH SPONSORS



ROOM SPONSORS



Thursday, May 15, 2025 | Independence Conference Center
www.ohioplanning.org/clevelandworkshop