



The Washington and Oregon chapters of the American Planning Association invite you to submit your session proposal(s) for the 2021 Joint Virtual Conference, to be held **October 13-15, 2021**.

## THEME

The 2021 conference continues with the theme of ***Growing Together Virtually***, recognizing the importance and challenges of planning for evolving communities, large and small, in these challenging and polarizing times.

You are encouraged to propose sessions that address any aspect of local and regional planning practice, but three areas will receive special focus in the conference. The conference will offer more sessions than last year, allowing for greater variety in session content.

### **Post - COVID Economy and Land Use Changes**

As we continue to respond to the challenges communities are facing because of the pandemic, how can we understand anticipate needs and opportunities? How are different communities and planning disciplines approaching planning?

### **Racial Equity in Planning Practice**

The 2020 conference included substantive discussions of historical and contemporary planning practice through a racial equity lens. The 2021 conference aims to build on those explorations by presenting additional case studies, analysis, and ideas for professional practice that demonstrate how the planning profession can advance racial equity in meaningful ways.

### **Environmental Policy, Climate Change, and Resiliency**

Climate change is already impacting Oregon and Washington in dramatic ways, and the policies and regulations being considered to both prevent and address climate change impacts affect planning practice across transportation, land use, housing, and economic development planning specialties. What role do planners have in developing and implementing these policies, and how can planners be more effective and informed?

To allow attendees to easily identify sessions of interest, the following “tags” may be associated with sessions:

- Design and the Public Realm
- Transportation and Connectivity
- Housing
- Equity
- Sustainability
- Skill Building
- Technology
- Innovative Community Engagement
- Economic Development and Jobs
- Career Development
- Healthy Communities
- Networking Opportunities
- Post-COVID Economy and Land Use Dynamics Changes
- Climate Change
- Interactive Sessions
- Public/Private Partnerships

- Resiliency
- Rural/Small Town
- Natural Resource Management
- Parks and Open Space
- Governance

## **SESSION FORMAT INFORMATION**

- Formats other than the traditional presentations are encouraged, including: Point/Counterpoint, Panel Discussions, Single Speaker, Moderated Debate, Interactive Workshops, Videos, etc.
- Number of presenters in each session is typically no more than 5 including the moderator (75–90-minute session).
- We are going to use Zoom for the virtual platform. Presenters will be required to attend practice sessions.
- Each session will be recorded.

## **SPEAKER REGISTRATION POLICY**

The conference registration fee is waived for the day of the speakers' session only. There will be a discounted fee if the speaker wants to attend the other days of the conference. We do not pay honoraria.

## **REVIEW OF SESSION PROPOSALS**

The conference Program Committee will review the session submissions and choose sessions based on relevancy of the topic, originality, format, and completeness of the proposal. The Program Committee will ensure that the conference includes a wide variety of session topics, formats, and speakers, and may make changes to sessions to better balance the program. Speakers/presenters can be from one or both Chapters, but we encourage joint representation where possible and/or session topics of interest to both Chapters.

All session applicants will be notified by June 11 if your proposal was accepted or not. The Program Committee will confirm session details and ask you to provide information needed for AICP CM credits within the following month. You will be asked to address the following questions, and provide speaker names and bios:

1. How will your session offer a professionally relevant learning experience for a planner (e.g., for a planner with at least four years of experience after earning a two-year master's degree)?
2. How does this session meet a specific-planning-related training objective?
3. What are the specific training objectives and how does your session meet them?

## **SUBMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS**

*Please use the [Google Form](#) to submit your proposal. We will also want a full session proposal in an MS WORD document named with the proposed session title only uploaded into the Google Form.* Include the following information in the order presented and do not include any additional information unless requested.

Please note that the session proposal will not be accepted if all of the following items are not followed or included in the proposal.

- Submittals are limited to one, single-sided 8.5" x 11" page.
- Session name (brief, 4 to 5 words, catchy, yet fully descriptive of topic preferred).
- Paragraph describing the topic and message. Provide enough detail in the description so that the committee can fully understand your topic. (500-word maximum - no exceptions. Marketing brochures and other similar types of materials will not be accepted with proposals.)
- Describe the format of your presentation and list the theme category you have selected and up to three (3) tags (previous page) that apply.
- This will be a virtual conference: Do you have the technology in place to be able to offer your session virtually?
- Names, e-mail addresses, mailing addresses and phone/fax numbers of the proposed moderator and all presenters (experienced presenters are encouraged to partner with first-time conference presenters)
- Send your submittal via e-mail to Stephanie Green, conference event manager, [totaleventconnection@gmail.com](mailto:totaleventconnection@gmail.com).

## **SUBMITTAL QUESTIONS**

Please e-mail any questions regarding proposals to Stephanie Green, conference event manager, [totaleventconnection@gmail.com](mailto:totaleventconnection@gmail.com).

## **SUBMITTAL DEADLINE**

**5:00 pm on April 30, 2021**