



FOCUS NORTH TEXAS

One-Day Planning Symposium #FNT2023

Hosted by:
North Central Section &
Midwest Section
of the
American Planning Association -
Texas Chapter



Friday, May 12, 2023
Great Wolf Lodge Conference Center
Grapevine, Texas

CO-CHAIRS' WELCOME



Abra Nusser, AICP,
Midwest Section



Chelsey Smith, AICP,
North Central Section

Welcome to the Focus North Texas (FNT) Planning Symposium! Our goal is to provide a meaningful one-day learning and networking experience for our local planners and “planning types,” city staff members, and our communities’ elected and appointed officials. The FNT experience is different than other planning conferences. The FNT Planning Committee issues a “call for sessions.” We then do our best to combine those ideas and speakers into sessions, and we curate the Opening Plenary, Keynote Lunch, and the rest of the sessions to ensure that the most fresh and relevant content available is presented.

Our Opening Plenary is a moderated panel with a special topic, near and dear to many in the field, that will discuss equity and access and how we can bring those into our communities for better quality of life and overall prosperity. Our Keynote Lunch is a mix of both soft skills and storytelling to both inspire new practices and foster your own personal growth in what you do and how you live. Our Breakout Session speakers are passionate professionals, advocates, and civil servants from diverse backgrounds, and we hope that you can find topics that fit your interests and needs.

We want you to enjoy your experience while you are with us. So eat, drink, be merry, visit our exhibitors, take their giveaways and business cards, catch up with old friends, make some new ones, and do your best to pick the four breakout sessions that sound the best to you.

A special thank you goes out to our sponsors. They make it possible to have the event in a nice venue, serve you food and beverage all day, and keep registration prices as low as possible. This year’s Platinum Level sponsors are Peloton Land Solutions, The Olsson Studio, and WSP. Please refer to the back of this program for our other amazing sponsors, and thank them for their support of this cherished event.

We want to also thank our speakers, who are giving their time, expertise, and passion so generously! Last, but certainly not least, we are also grateful for our dedicated FNT Planning Committee listed on page 15. This event is organized by volunteers on the Committee who added tasks and energy expenditure, on top of their existing workloads and lives, to bring this to you.

SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

7:30 - 8:30	Registration / Breakfast / Networking
8:30 - 10:00	Opening Plenary
10:15 - 11:30	Breakout Sessions 1
11:45 - 1:00	Keynote Lunch
1:15 - 2:30	Breakout Sessions 2
2:30 - 2:45	Afternoon Snack
2:45 - 4:00	Breakout Sessions 3
4:15 - 5:30	Breakout Session 4
5:30 - 7:30	On-site Happy Hour

OPENING PLENARY TOPIC:

Building Blocks of Prosperity:
A Conversation about Equity and Access (Equity CM)

PANELISTS:

Laura Freeland, Southern Dallas County IPTMA
Brenda Espinoza Patton, Texas Health Resources
Jennifer Sanders, Dallas Innovation Alliance (DIA)
Dr. Lindsey Wilson, City of Dallas

MODERATOR:

Chelsey Smith, AICP



KEYNOTE TOPIC:

Make The Important Things
Important & Maximize The
Power Of Story

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Drew Myers

OPENING PLENARY: 8:30AM - 10:00AM

PANEL DISCUSSION:

Building Blocks of Prosperity: A Conversation about Equity and Access (1.5 Equity CM)

Room: Ballroom

Speakers: Laura Freeland, Southern Dallas County IPTMA; Brenda Espinoza Patton, North Texas Healthy Communities; Jennifer Sanders, Dallas Innovation Alliance (DIA); Dr. Lindsey Wilson, City of Dallas
Moderator: Chelsey Smith, AICP, Burns & McDonnell

Planners have a special responsibility to serve the public interest, expand choice and opportunity for all persons, and to plan for the needs of the disadvantaged, as asserted in the AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct. Join us for an engaging panel discussion on how we can expand equity and access in our communities to result in better quality of life and community prosperity. Topics will include mobility/transportation, workforce and economic development, public health, and technology.

KEYNOTE LUNCH: 11:45 - 1:00

SPEAKER: DREW MYERS

Room: Ballroom

MAKE THE IMPORTANT THINGS IMPORTANT & MAXIMIZE THE POWER OF STORY (0.75 CM)

How can we pour into other people and be a light for the world around us if we're not making ourselves a priority? How can you be the best spouse? The best parent? The best boss? Spoiler alert: You can't! When discussing the importance of self-care, self-love, and self-protection, speaker Drew Myers says: "We become an afterthought. We give ourselves the scraps after we pour into our kids, our jobs, our clients, our social media addiction." How do we combat this epidemic? In his powerful keynote address, Myers will empower us to make the important things important, starting with ourselves.

One of Drew's primary calls to action for this empowerment is to embrace the power of story - the good, the bad and the ugly ... the past, present and the future. Our stories and the stories of others! He has taken this charge to another level, working with communities across North Texas to tell their stories through podcasts. From Cleburne and Farmersville to Melissa and Celina, Drew will share how his powerful storytelling of people who live and work in our communities not only brings people together, but also serves as economic development and brand-building. Be prepared to unlock radical change and ignite a ripple effect in your life and in your community!

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Texas Chapter
Midwest

Creating Great Communities for All

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EVENT INFORMATION

Complimentary Wi-Fi Info:

Network
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Scan the QR Code for Speaker Info:



Follow Up Survey

Please keep an eye out for the #FNT2023 follow-up email to attendees to let us know your thoughts about today. Feedback is important to us!

Great Wolf Lodge



Attractions

Great Wolf Lodge offers many on-site amenities and attractions for the whole family.

Indoor Water Park

The site features an 80,000-square-foot indoor water park and offers something for everyone. Enjoy the park's many pools, water slides, and other amenities.

The Grounds by Topgolf Swing Suit

Hang out and have fun in the immersive world of The Grounds, a family gaming den where fun comes first. Bond with your pack and play for bragging rights while firing dodgeballs at zombie invaders, pitching a perfect strike, and kicking your way to victory all in the same visit.

North Lights Arcade

The Northern Lights Arcade is packed with incredible games to challenge and entertain the entire family. Lights, action, and energy fill the arcade with excitement as you're surrounded by the newest and best games, and great prizes, too. The more you play, the more you can win!

MagiQuest & Shadow Quest

Explore the lodge and take part in the adventure of a lifetime! MagiQuest & Shadow Quest turn Great Wolf Lodge into a live-action game where you're the star. You'll choose a special magic wand, top it with extra powers, and set off on a quest. Play for a few minutes or all day.

Scan the QR Code for Great Wolf Lodge Info:



BREAKOUT SESSIONS 1 (10:15 - 11:30)

How to Charge Up the Transition to Electric Vehicles (0.75 CM)

Room: Ballroom (THIS IS A 45-MINUTE SESSION FROM 10:15-11:00)

Speakers: Pharr Andrews, PMP, City of Dallas; Sara Copeland, FAICP, Burns & McDonnell; Jennifer Deaton, Oncor

Description: EV adoption requires new infrastructure investments to support transportation electrification and achieve the benefits of widespread EV adoption, such as lower tailpipe emissions and reduced fossil fuel consumption. This session provides planners with a background on EV needs and benefits, as well as best practices to implement them, and addresses how states are planning for the EV transition (This is a 45-minute session).

TOD & Economic Tools: Sustainable and Equitable Development Partnerships (1.25 CM)

Room: Red Oak

Speakers: Josh Giles, City of Carrollton; Sue Hounsel, AICP, City of Dallas; Ravi Shah, AIA, CBO, City of Carrollton; Moderator: Travis Liska, AICP, NCTCOG

Description: Many walkable centers, transit-oriented developments, and affordable housing projects need partnership to make them successful in challenging markets. Attendees can expect to learn insights for addressing development deals in challenging context to deliver sustainable and equitable benefits to their communities, and about implementing these catalytic developments with incentives, public private partnerships, and financing tools.

Plangineering: Engineering in Development Review and Long Range Plans (1.25 CM)

Room: Mesquite

Speakers: Abra Nusser, AICP, Peloton Land Solutions; Brian Haynes, PE, Peloton Land Solutions

Description: When it comes to making relevant and useful plans, whether it is a long range plan or reviewing/creating a development plan, evaluating and designing infrastructure well is essential. This session will provide “nuts and bolts” of water, sanitary sewer, drainage, and roadways/connectivity, and it will also share planning and design tips and best practices for each topic.

Elected & Appointed Officials: Current Planning 101

Room: Black Oak

Speaker: Erica Marohnic, AICP, City of Grapevine

Description: Learn the basics of development in the Texas context. While each city is unique, the development framework is based on state requirements. This session will give an overview of the process for changing zoning on a property, granting a special use permit and how more detailed and technical site plans and plats are reviewed and approved. Ensuring these processes function smoothly is key to promoting desired development in your community.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS 2 (1:15 - 2:30)

Heart of the City: Planning, Design, & Implementation for Successful Downtowns (1.25 CM)

Room: Ballroom

Speakers: Alexis Jackson, AICP, City of Celina EDC; Jason Laumer, City of Celina; Richard Luedke, AICP, City of Lewisville

Description: Planners should think like Economic Developers and vice versa. This session will demonstrate ways in which we can all add tremendous value to our downtowns as our communities evolve. All you need is a plan, some associated tools, a few “tricks of the trade,” a resilient attitude, and the passion to make the Vision a reality.

Need Transportation Funding? Understand the Options (1.25 CM)

Room: Red Oak

Speakers: Christie Gotti, NCTCOG; Brian Moen, P.E., City of Frisco; Jeff Neal, NCTCOG

Description: Inflation and high cost aren't new to transportation infrastructure. North Texas increasingly needs more funding to pay for the transportation projects that facilitate our growth. This session will overview what you need to know in lining up the construction capital with local or federal funds to implement transportation improvements in your community.

Leveraging Sustainability, Resilience and Equity to Promote and Implement Impactful Public Infrastructure (1.25 CM)

Room: Mesquite

Speakers: Molly Plummer, Trust for Public Land; Mikel Wilkins, P.E., ENV-SP, LEED-AP, TBG Partners

Description: This session will focus on building in sustainability, resilience and equity indicators, and goals to support the implementation of significant public infrastructure projects in the Dallas-Fort Worth region.

Elected & Appointed Officials: Ethics and Open Meetings Training Speakers

Room: Black Oak

Speakers: Ann Bagley, FAICP, Consultant; Alan Lathrom, JD, Brown & Hofmeister

Description: As elected and appointed officials, there are rules and responsibilities that are important to performing the roles assigned in the planning process. Learn more about these rules and responsibilities, including guidelines and laws for ethical behavior. Understanding the rules and procedures of the Texas Open Meetings Act, the ethical requirements of Texas law, and APA's Ethical Principles in Planning will provide you with insight for your service that will keep you out of trouble!

BREAKOUT SESSIONS 3 (2:45 - 4:00)

Ethics & Housing: Framing the Issues into Action (1.25 Ethics CM)

Room: Ballroom

Speakers: Staron Faucher, AICP, WSP; Gincy Thoppil, AICP, CPM, City of Arlington; Abra Nusser, AICP, Peloton Land Solutions

Description: When it comes to planning in North Texas, there aren't many issues more contentious and important than housing-- especially workforce/affordable housing. From topics relating to the best-selling book *The Color of Law*, to workforce housing as economic development, to challenges integrating "Missing Middle Housing," this session will explore how the AICP Code of Ethics relates to housing.

Rain or Shine: Designing Resilient Mobility (1.25 Sustainability and Resilience CM)

Room: Red Oak

Speakers: Vivian Fung, AICP, The Olsson Studio; Dr. Valerie Miller, AICP, The Olsson Studio

Description: This session will serve as an interactive exercise in designing resilient mobility. We will delve into the questions and concepts that planners need to address to design a mobility network that withstands extreme weather conditions and the test of time.

Plans and Pathways to Healthy Communities (1.25 CM)

Room: Mesquite

Speakers: Dr. Lauren Ames Fischer, University of North Texas; Kendall Howard, AICP, Halff Associates; Dr. Laura Keyes, AICP, University of North Texas; Jose Marines, City of Lewisville; Dr. Melissa Oden, CEO, DMO Enterprises, LLC, PLAN4Health

Description: How are North Texas communities integrating health into urban development? This session profiles two innovative municipal planning efforts in the North Texas region: Lewisville's Parks and Rec's development of a holistic Healthy Infrastructure Framework for their 2023 Parks Master Plan; and the PLAN4Health project in Paris that brings planners and public health professionals together to create healthier communities.

Elected & Appointed Officials: Comprehensive and Long Range Planning 101

Room: Black Oak

Speaker: LaShondra Stringfellow, AICP, City of Cedar Hill

Description: Each community is different, and there is no "one size fits all" when it comes to a comprehensive plan. Learn about the dynamic process through one city's comprehensive plan journey during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Participants will learn about best practices and potential landmines to avoid.

Students: Résumé Reviews & Mock Interviews

Room: Fallen Timbers

BREAKOUT SESSIONS 4 (4:15 - 5:30)

Best Practices for Local Control (1.25 Law CM)

Room: Ballroom

Speakers: Craig Farmer, FAICP, Municipal Planning Services; Bill Dahlstrom, FAICP, JD, Jackson Walker

Description: The Texas Legislature continues to reduce the Local Control of Cities and Counties in the management and regulation of growth and development. This session will provide examples of bad practices in the past that led to the legislation, and will offer “best practices” that a city or county can use to examine their own practices and avoid being cited as a reason local control needs to be limited.

Zoning, Regulations, & Standards to Achieve the Vision (1.25 CM)

Room: Red Oak

Speakers: Jay Narayana, AICP, Livable Plans and Codes; Abra Nusser, AICP, Peloton Land Solutions; Dr. Andreea Udrea, AICP, City of Dallas

Description: Plans and designs mean nothing if they do not get implemented. From citywide comprehensive plans to downtowns to corridors to special topics, we will discuss tips and process for implementing plans and designs with modern and relevant zoning, regulations, and standards.

Efficient Parking: A Drive for Better Management (1.25 CM)

Room: Mesquite

Speakers: David Nevarez, P.E., PTOE, CFM, City of Dallas; Josh Peterman, P.E., RSP1, Fehr & Peers; Catherine Osborn, AICP, AECOM

Description: A parking space is essential to the beginning and end of every trip we make by car, yet inefficient management of parking supply may have negative impacts on the environment, communities, businesses, and overall mobility. This session discusses the influencing factors behind some parking challenges and introduces solutions such as curb management and parking regulations.

Elected & Appointed Officials: Trending Topics for Elected and Appointed Officials

Room: Black Oak

Panelists: Kim Dobbs, City of Lavon City Manager; Dr. Lauren Ames Fischer, Denton ZBA; Kristin Green, P.E., Lewisville City Council; Brad Ruthrauff, Flower Mound P&Z; Moderator: Marc Kurbansade, AICP, City of Allen

Description: In this diverse panel of City leaders, a variety of North Texas hot topics and development trends will be discussed. Participants will be encouraged to ask questions about issues in their communities or service in general for panel perspectives.

Students: Résumé Reviews & Mock Interviews

Room: Fallen Timbers

HAPPY HOUR INFORMATION

5:30 PM- 7:30 PM

Location

- On-site at Great Wolf Lodge

Join Us

- Following the Symposium, attendees, sponsors, and speakers are invited to attend an informal networking get-together at the Convention Center. Light hors d'oeuvres and drink tickets will be provided and a cash bar will be available.
- This is a great chance to unwind, grab a drink, have a bite to eat, share your thoughts on what you have heard during the day, network with colleagues, and avoid the Friday night rush hour.



ABOUT FOCUS NORTH TEXAS



Focus North Texas (FNT) is a one-day symposium providing training and continuing education relating to city planning. Gathering attendees from across the world, but mostly from North Texas, city planners, elected and appointed officials, students, and citizen planners enjoy the reasonable cost of the FNT program, the high quality of the event, and its convenient location in the DFW Metroplex.

FNT was started in 2010 by Brooks Wilson, AICP. She was serving on the North Central Texas APA Board at the time with Abra Nusser, AICP (FNT Planning Committee Co-Chair) among others, and recognized the need for a one-day regional training program. Started right after the Great Recession, many planning departments and private firms were cutting back on travel and training. It was thought that by eliminating travel and lodging costs, more people could get the training and continuing education they needed. It was held at the first of the year to ensure that those planners who needed CM Credits could still get the continuing education they needed in the "CM Grace Period." A core group planned FNT that year and for years to come.

Prior to 2019, FNT was hosted by the North Central Texas Section of the American Planning Association (NCTAPA) on the Dallas side of the DFW Metroplex. In 2018, FNT was not held for the first time in seven years, but for 2019, the Midwest Texas Section of the APA (MWTAPA) and the NCTAPA combined forces to put on this affordable and regional training program together. The sold-out event, held in a new centralized location in Irving, was a resounding success. The two sections partnered again for #FNT2020, right before COVID-19 hit. COVID stole #FNT2021 and #FNT2022, but FNT is BACK for #FNT2023!!

As North Texas evolves, it becomes increasingly apparent that the imaginary line between the two APATX sections, generally splitting the east from the west, is arbitrary and does not make sense for most things. The two North Texas sections of APA intend to partner on more events and programs together in the coming years. Thank you for attending today and for your support of great planning in North Texas!

ELECTED & APPOINTED OFFICIALS

All Elected & Appointed Officials sessions will be located in the Black Oak room at their respective times.

Elected & Appointed Officials: Current Planning 101 (10:15 - 11:30)

Learn the basics of development in the Texas context. While each city is unique, the development framework is based on state requirements. This session will give an overview of the process for changing zoning on a property, granting a special use permit and how more detailed and technical site plans and plats are reviewed and approved. Ensuring these processes function smoothly is key to promoting desired development in your community.

Elected & Appointed Officials: Ethics and Open Meetings Training Speakers (1:15 - 2:30)

As elected and appointed officials, you have rules and responsibilities with which to comply that are important to performing the roles assigned to you in your community's planning process. Learn more about these rules and responsibilities including guidelines for ethical behavior. Understanding the rules and procedures of the Texas Open Meetings Act, the ethical requirements of Texas law and APA's Ethical Principles in Planning provide you with guidelines for your service that will keep you out of trouble. This session may be helpful for students and newer planners in addition to elected and appointed officials.

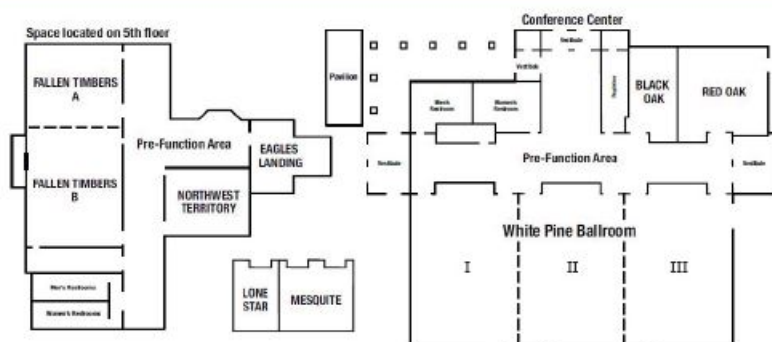
Elected & Appointed Officials: Comprehensive and Long Range Planning 101 (2:45 - 4:00)

Developing a city's plan for growth and redevelopment is arduous. Each community is different and there is no "one size fits all" when it comes to a comprehensive plan. Learn about the dynamic process through one city's comprehensive plan journey during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Participants will learn about best practices and potential landmines to avoid.

Elected & Appointed Officials: Trending Topics for Elected and Appointed Officials (4:15 - 5:30)

Come hear from a diverse panel of City leaders, including elected and appointed officials, as they discuss the most exciting development opportunities in their communities. They will also answer your questions about hot topics in planning, frequent questions, and development trends we all see happening across North Texas.

EVENT LAYOUT



GREAT WOLF LODGE CONVENTION CENTER

CM Credits



CM Credits: AICP Continuing Maintenance credits have been approved for all sessions (excluding those prepared for the Elected & Appointed Officials), as indicated in each session description.

THANK YOU TO OUR FNT PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| ■ Michele Berry, AICP | ■ Aden Herrera |
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