



Ondaga County
Planning Federation
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35th Annual Planning Symposium

March 13, 2024 • Marriott Syracuse Downtown
PRESENTERS

KEYNOTE PRESENTER



Bill Fulton

Keynote: *Managing the Boom: How CNY Can Plan a Future with a High Quality of Life*

Bill Fulton is one of the nation's leading thinkers on urban planning and land use. He currently serves as a Senior Advisor to PFM Management and Budget Consulting Group and a Visiting Policy Designer at the University of California, San Diego. Bill was recently selected to be inducted into the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) College of Fellows, the highest honor bestowed by the AICP to recognize his outstanding contributions to the field of planning.

From 2014 to 2022, Bill served as Director of the Kinder Institute for Urban Research at Rice University in Houston. Trained in urban planning at UCLA, Bill previously served as Planning Director for the City of San Diego; Mayor and City Councilmember for the City of Ventura, California; and Vice President for Policy at the national advocacy group Smart Growth America. In 2009, the web site Planetizen selected him as one of the 100 leading urban thinkers.

A native of Auburn, Bill's first career was as a journalist specializing in writing about cities and urban issues. He got his start covering the northern suburbs of Syracuse for The Post Standard.

He is the author of several books, including *Place and Prosperity: How Cities Help Us Connect and Innovate*, which was published by Island Press last year. *Place and Prosperity* has several essays about how growing up in Central New York shaped him as an urban planner.

BREAKOUT SESSION PRESENTERS

Amanda Bearcroft

Session: *NYS Department of State Funding Opportunities: Empowering Sustainable Communities and Resilient Downtowns*

Amanda Bearcroft is the Program Director of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) and NY Forward (NYF) programs at the New York Department of State. An accomplished urban planner, Amanda has over 13 years of both public and private sector experience in community and regional planning, with a focus on sustainable and equitable development. She holds a bachelor's degree in environmental design from the University at Buffalo, and a master's degree in city and regional planning from The Ohio State University.

Valerie Beecher

Session: *Case Study: Comprehensive Planning as a Learning Enterprise*

Ms. Beecher is the Chair of the Town of Manlius Planning Board and has been a Board member since 2021. Ms. Beecher has also worked with the Comprehensive Plan development and the Sustainable Manlius committee in the Town. She is also a Board member of the Onondaga County Planning Federation. Ms. Beecher has worked in the ergonomics field for 22 years and is the Owner and Ergonomist for Empire Ergonomics, LLC. Additionally, Ms. Beecher has worked for SUNY and Duke University. Ms. Beecher earned a Master of Science and a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering from the University at Buffalo. Her master's degree was concentrated in the area of Ergonomics and Human Factors, with her research focusing on universal design.

Katherine Black

Session: *Using Local Land Use Authority to Protect Water Quality*

Katherine Black joined the NYS Department of State, Office of Planning, Development and Community Infrastructure in 2018 as a Coastal Resources Specialist. At DOS Katherine works with communities in New York State's North Country on Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs, plans, and implementation projects; communities and watershed organizations across the state to development and implementation of watershed management plans; the management of Lake Ontario Resiliency and Economic Development Initiative (REDI) projects; as well as coordinates with other state agency and partners to promote water quality protection and improvement in New York State. Prior to DOS she designed, supervised, and implemented riparian, wetland, and upland restoration projects across the country. Katherine has a master's degree from SUNY ESF in Natural Resource Management and a bachelor's degree in Geography from SUNY Geneseo.

Sara Bollinger

Session: *Case Study: Comprehensive Planning as a Learning Enterprise*

Now in her second term on the Manlius Town Board, Sara is focused on using the Comprehensive Planning process to increase resident involvement and provide a realistic blueprint for future development in the Town. Sara has worked in the not-for-profit sector, representing people with disabilities, veterans, children in foster care, refugees and other disadvantaged groups. As an agency Executive Director, Sara has demonstrated leadership and managerial skills. She now owns a management consulting business.

Sara and her husband, Chris, have lived in the Town of Manlius for more than 30 years and have been active with the community. Sara has also participated in regional, state and national associations. She is a member of the Village of Fayetteville Comprehensive Planning Committee and the Onondaga East Chamber.

Sara believes that informed and engaged citizens are the backbone of sustainable communities. She has practiced civic engagement through issue advocacy, political action and public service. She believes in collaboration and the ability of people with different and sometimes opposing views to work together for a common cause.

Charles Buki

Session: *A Deep Dive into Onondaga County's Housing Market*

Charles Buki founded czb in 2001 after working in the nonprofit community development sector, and after growing disillusioned with what he believed was a lack of imagination in the planning and design fields in their response to the real-world challenges faced by low-income and working families in America. In establishing czb, he sought to bring focus to the decisions that all households make with the capacities they have so that policy and other interventions could have positive and lasting impacts on families and communities. He has two main professional interests: the challenge of improving neighborhood residential life without displacement, and the challenge of constructively orienting the disequilibrium in communities undergoing change.

Patricia Burke

Sessions: *Planning and Zoning: An Introduction, Using Local Land Use Authority to Protect Water Quality, Public Meetings and Hearings*

Patricia Burke is a Local Government Specialist with the New York State Department of State. Prior to her service at the Department of State, she worked at the New York State Office of Real Property Services. Ms. Burke holds a master's degree in Regional Planning from the State University of New York at Albany, with an environmental concentration that studied wind turbine planning considerations, and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from St. John Fisher College in Rochester. Prior to her public service, she was an editor for a national legal publishing firm.

Diane Carlton

Session: *Overview of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) Process*

Diane Carlton is the former Regional Director for Public Affairs and Education for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in Syracuse. She is a certified planner who served as the Otsego County Planning Director (Cooperstown, NY) for over 15 years, where she assisted many local planning and town boards with SEQRA.

Diane also is an adjunct professor at SUNY Oneonta where she teaches courses on environmental planning and environmental impact assessment, which includes NEPA and SEQRA. Diane has a Master's of Public Administration in Environmental Planning from the University of Delaware and a Bachelor's degree in History and Environmental Studies from SUNY Geneseo.

Chris Carrick

Session: *Can Solar Development and Agriculture Work Together?*

Chris Carrick leads the Energy Program for the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board, a public agency that serves Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga and Oswego counties. In that capacity, he works to protect communities from the risks of climate change and transition to a clean energy economy that works for everyone. Chris and his team have brought more than \$100 million in public and private investments to the region for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

Adam Catherine

Session: *Developing Transit Oriented Communities with Regional Transit Corridor Planning*

Adam is Stantec's Smart(ER) Mobility practice lead for the Northeast and coordinates a staff of over 30 traffic engineers, transportation planners, and urban mobility experts on a variety of mobility projects. His project experience includes leading multidisciplinary teams on studies including corridor planning, pedestrian and bicycle studies, master plans, transit system planning and operations, transit facility planning, traffic operations, and transportation demand management. He is well-versed in a variety of traffic and planning tools including ArcGIS and location-based data sources. Adam strives to build high quality teams that develop innovating strategies for today and tomorrow's transportation problems. In addition to working at Stantec, Adam teaches courses in traffic engineering and mobility at his alma matter, the University of Delaware.

Timothy Coyer

Session: *Map Reading 101*

Timothy J. Coyer, PLS has been the President and Owner of Ianuzi & Romans Land Surveying, P.C. for the past six years. He has worked at Ianuzi & Romans for over 20 years. For the last eight years, Timothy has specialized in overall site development consulting. He has managed and represented hundreds of site development projects in the CNY region. Ianuzi & Romans specializes in helping developers through the town processes in order to obtain the necessary approvals for their project.

James D'Agostino

Session: *Developing Transit Oriented Communities with Regional Transit Corridor Planning*

James D'Agostino has been a staff member at the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC) since 2000 and became its director in March of 2007. As director, James is responsible for administering the agency's annual planning program, ensuring adherence to federal and state requirements, and managing the agency's central staff.

James has extensive experience in land use planning, transportation planning, computer modeling, and GIS. He holds advanced degrees in both Geography and Mathematics. He has worked with city, county, and regional governments in New York, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania, from both the public and private sector perspectives.

Ralph DeNisco

Session: *Developing Transit Oriented Communities with Regional Transit Corridor Planning*

Ralph uses his deep technical knowledge to promote smart transportation decisions that create the vibrant, functional places people want. In 25+ years, he's built a strong record of devising sophisticated solutions to complex mobility needs that win community and agency support. At Stantec, Ralph leads the development of integrated mobility solutions for challenging environments alongside municipalities, transit agencies, and foundations across the United States and beyond. The variety of his successfully implemented transportation projects include transit-oriented development plans, first and last mile solutions, corridor designs, smart mobility implementation plans, transportation demand modeling, parking studies, and integrated solutions for emerging transportation technologies.

Christopher Eastman

Sessions: *Planning and Zoning: An Introduction, Public Meetings and Hearings*

Christopher Eastman has been manager of the Local Government Training program at the New York Department of State since 2009. He's also worked as a city planner, a county planner, and for the Preservation League of New York State. He received his master's in regional planning from the State University of New York at Albany in 2002.

Keith Ewald

Session: *Case Study: Comprehensive Planning as a Learning Enterprise*

Keith Ewald is a Senior Managing Landscape Architect and Planner at Barton & Loguidice. In his role as a NYS Registered Landscape Architect and Professional Planner (American Institute of Certified Planners), Keith is responsible for managing community planning as well as site/civil design projects for B&L's Sustainable Planning and Design practice area. In collaboration with the Town of Manlius Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, led by Councilors Sara Bollinger and Heather Waters, B&L's team of planners and designers worked collaboratively with the Town of Manlius and its many stakeholders and focus groups to facilitate the preparation of its first Town Comprehensive Plan.

Joseph Frateschi

Session: *Case Law Update for Planning and Zoning*

Joseph Frateschi is an Associate with Harris Beach. Joseph has extensive experience as a transaction counsel on real property, intellectual property and corporate matters. He also advises municipal agencies and public benefit corporations on a range of issues under New York municipal law. He serves as bond counsel and issuer counsel on taxable and tax-exempt bond financings undertaken by local issuers. He also serves as special transaction counsel on large projects throughout New York State.

During law school, he served as a law clerk for the Hon. Glenn T. Suddaby of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York and the Hon. Frank P. Geraci, Jr. of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York. Joe taught music industry law and ethics at Syracuse University and maintains an active playing schedule as a jazz saxophonist throughout Central New York.

Linda Garrett

Session: *Can Solar Development and Agriculture Work Together?*

Linda Garrett is American Farmland Trust's NY/NJ Regional Director. Linda works to develop innovative programs in NY and NJ to forward AFT's mission to protect agricultural land, promote environmentally sound farming practices, and keep farmers on the land. Prior to AFT, Linda was the Executive Director of Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust for over 20 years. She helped protect over 21,000 acres of farms and forest, and partnered on many regional conservation projects.

Sam Gordon

Session: *Developing Town Centers: A How-To Guide*

Sam Gordon has over 20 years of community planning experience. He has worked in the public and private sector as well as internationally. As a Planning Practice Leader with EDR, Sam is the principal point of client and public interaction on many projects. Sam served as the project manager and lead author for Plan Onondaga. He has assisted the District East project in DeWitt with the development of updates to the Town of DeWitt Zoning Code to facilitate the redevelopment of the former ShoppingTown Mall. From 2014 to 2019 Sam served as the Director of Planning and Zoning for the Town of DeWitt where he oversaw the development of the Town's Mixed-use Village Overlay District. Sam received a Fellowship in 2005 to work with the Center for Environmental Studies in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain, which was selected as the 2012 European Green Capital. He has Master's degrees in Landscape Architecture and Environmental and Community Land Use Planning from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

Holly Granat

Session: *NYS Department of State Funding Opportunities: Empowering Sustainable Communities and Resilient Downtowns*

Holly Granat has worked as a Revitalization Specialist in NY Department of State's Syracuse Office since 2022. Prior to coming to Department of State, Holly has worked in various state and local government positions focused on environmental regulation, remediation, and permitting; storm recovery and shoreline resiliency planning; and public policy and land use advisement. She holds bachelor's degrees in psychology and public justice from SUNY Oswego, a master's degree in forest and natural resources management from SUNY ESF, and a master's degree in public administration from Syracuse University.

Peter Lombardi

Session: *A Deep Dive into Onondaga County's Housing Market*

Peter Lombardi is a planner, project manager, and policy analyst with broad experience in soft-market communities. At czb, he specializes in managing the firm's largest and most complex long-term planning projects. Prior to czb, Peter lived and worked in his hometown of Jamestown, New York, where he directed revitalization activities for the Jamestown Renaissance Corporation and served as the founding chairman of the Chautauqua County Land Bank. A student of architectural history and urban morphology, he wrote a book about Jamestown's built environment and led the nomination of the city's downtown district to the National Register of Historic Places.

Amelia McLean-Robertson

Session: *Case Law Update for Planning and Zoning*

As a member of the Harris Beach Commercial Real Estate Practice Group, Amelia focuses on environmental, land use, zoning, energy, and municipal work. She advises clients on the responsibilities, exposures and liabilities resulting from federal, state and local environmental legislation and regulations. She guides clients through the environmental impact review processes and regulations related to traffic patterns, air pollution, coastal areas and wetlands.

Amelia previously served as an environmental attorney at a private law firm and as assistant corporation counsel for the City of Syracuse. Her legal experience also includes working as an intern in the law department of a national chain of convenience stores and gas stations, and as a legal assistant at two other law firms, focusing on commercial real estate transactions and civil litigation.

Amelia has experience drafting and reviewing asset purchase agreements, real estate sale and lease agreements, power purchasing agreements, mining leases and environmental easements. Amelia also provides counsel to clients in the waste management and recycling, utilities, mining and electric and gas industries. She negotiates with regulatory agencies regarding permitting and enforcement matters. Amelia has drafted local legislation for municipalities concerning land use and zoning laws, commercial leases, license agreements, Payment in Lieu of Taxes agreements and shelter rental agreements. She negotiated contracts for leasing cell phone towers, drafted RFPs for real estate construction projects and provided counsel in tax certiorari proceedings.

Further, as a member of the Financial Restructuring, Bankruptcy and Creditor's Rights Practice Group, Amelia represents creditors' interests when dealing with financially distressed organizations and individuals. She works with commercial, lending and consumer clients, counseling in commercial and financial planning, debt refinancing and restructuring, commercial contract dispute resolution, bankruptcy, foreclosure, distressed investments, commercial and consumer collection, and Uniform Commercial Code compliance.

Charles Rorick

Session: *Using Local Land Use Authority to Protect Water Quality*

Charles Rorick works at the New York State Department of Health in the Bureau of Water Supply Protection. He joined the Department in July 2023. He coordinates with regional DOH staff, LHDs and municipalities to develop source water protection strategies and implementation at the local level. Charles works in the Central NY region, helping communities in 13 counties through the Drinking Water Source Protection Program.

Craig Sklenar

Session: *Developing Transit Oriented Communities with Regional Transit Corridor Planning*

Craig is an Urban Designer and Planner based out of Montreal, Quebec. He is a Principal for Stantec's Urban Places Group and leads the global Transit-oriented Communities initiative at the firm. His 19 years' experience across North America and New Zealand primarily focuses on work that fuses urban planning, urban design and transportation planning with the art of placemaking, development potential, community design and governmental approvals. Craig holds a Bachelor of Urban Planning from Ball State University and a Masters in Urban Design and Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Colorado.

Heather Waters

Session: *Case Study: Comprehensive Planning as a Learning Enterprise*

Heather was first elected to the Manlius Town Board in 2019 and invites residents with young families and newcomers to participate in government. Heather is a trained community mediator, and she authored the updates to the Town's public meeting rules, which launched the "Open Podium" public comment program. She led the town's pay equity audit, co-chaired the Comprehensive Plan Committee, the Tree Commission, and she serves as the liaison to the Police department. Heather is a development professional who previously worked as an Assistant Dean for Advancement at Syracuse University and holds a BA from Mount Holyoke College and an MS from Columbia University. She advocates alongside fellow LGBTQIA+ community members and people with disabilities. Born and raised in the town, Waters lives in Fayetteville with her husband, Sterling, and their 12-year-old, Riley.