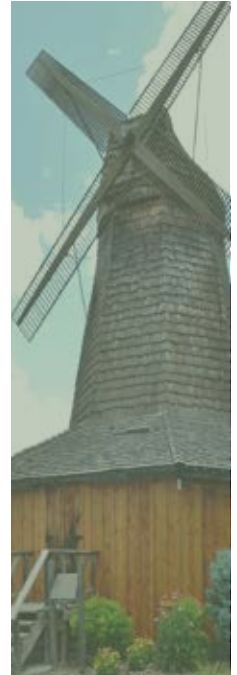




Investing In Identity



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Manhattan, Kansas

October 16-17, 2025

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PRESIDENT'S WELCOME MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2025 Kansas Planning Conference! It's been three years since we came together as a State Chapter after spending a year in Kansas City at the Bi-State Conference and last year in Fayetteville for the Quad State Conference.

While we certainly enjoy banding together with the other Chapters, it's good to be in Kansas this year! On behalf of the American Planning Association-Kansas Chapter (APA-KS) Executive Committee, we are delighted to be in Manhattan and look forward to hearing from each other as we continue to ***invest in our community identities*** across the State.

We wanted to switch things up this year, so instead of hosting the event at a hotel, we decided to take advantage of Kansas State University's beautiful campus and excellent amenities. As a KU grad, that was tough for me to write, by the way! All kidding aside, we are excited to host this year's conference on campus. Depending on the event's success, we may hold future conferences in other creative locations, including the University of Kansas' campus.

An event like this cannot occur without the tireless efforts of dedicated volunteers. Thank you to my fellow Executive Committee Members for their perseverance, patience, and dedication.

Thank you to the Conference Steering Committee, student volunteers, and presenters who made the event possible.

Of course, the conference would not be possible without the support of our sponsors, including our host, Kansas State University. Please take time to visit their tables and thank them for their continued support of our Chapter and the planning profession.

Finally, a big thank you to all the attendees. Enjoy the conference!



Josh White, AICP
President, APA Kansas Chapter



**"HEY! I DIDN'T
KNOW I COULD GET A
CAREER IN THAT!"**



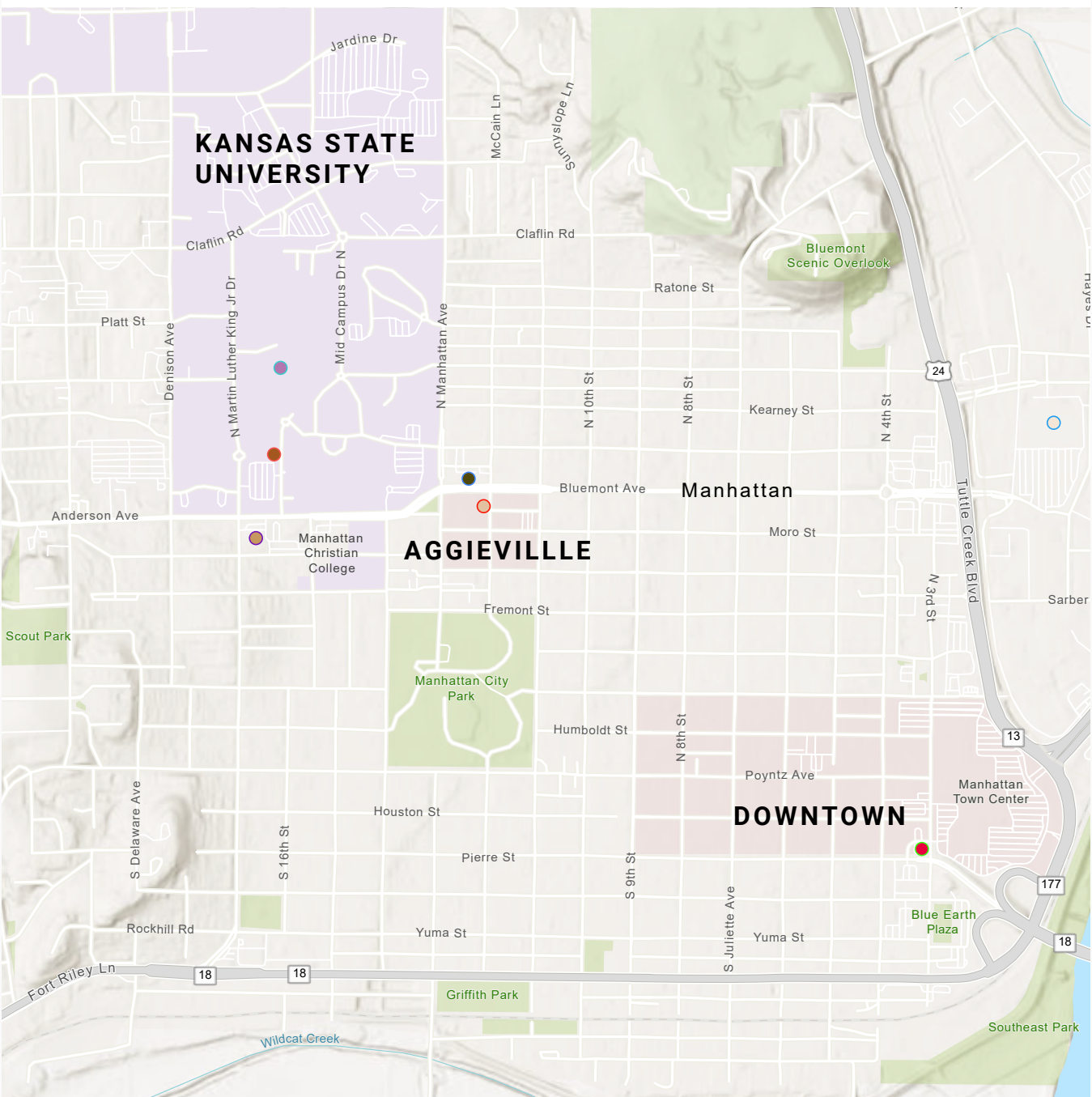
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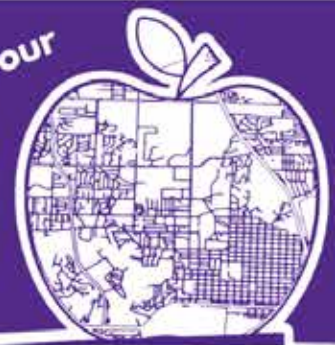
*Come stop by our
table!*

Our organization exists to help foster the professional development and growth of Planning students - and any students interested in the field of Planning!

We organize professional conference trips, host engagement/education events, host social events, and help network students with professional planners.

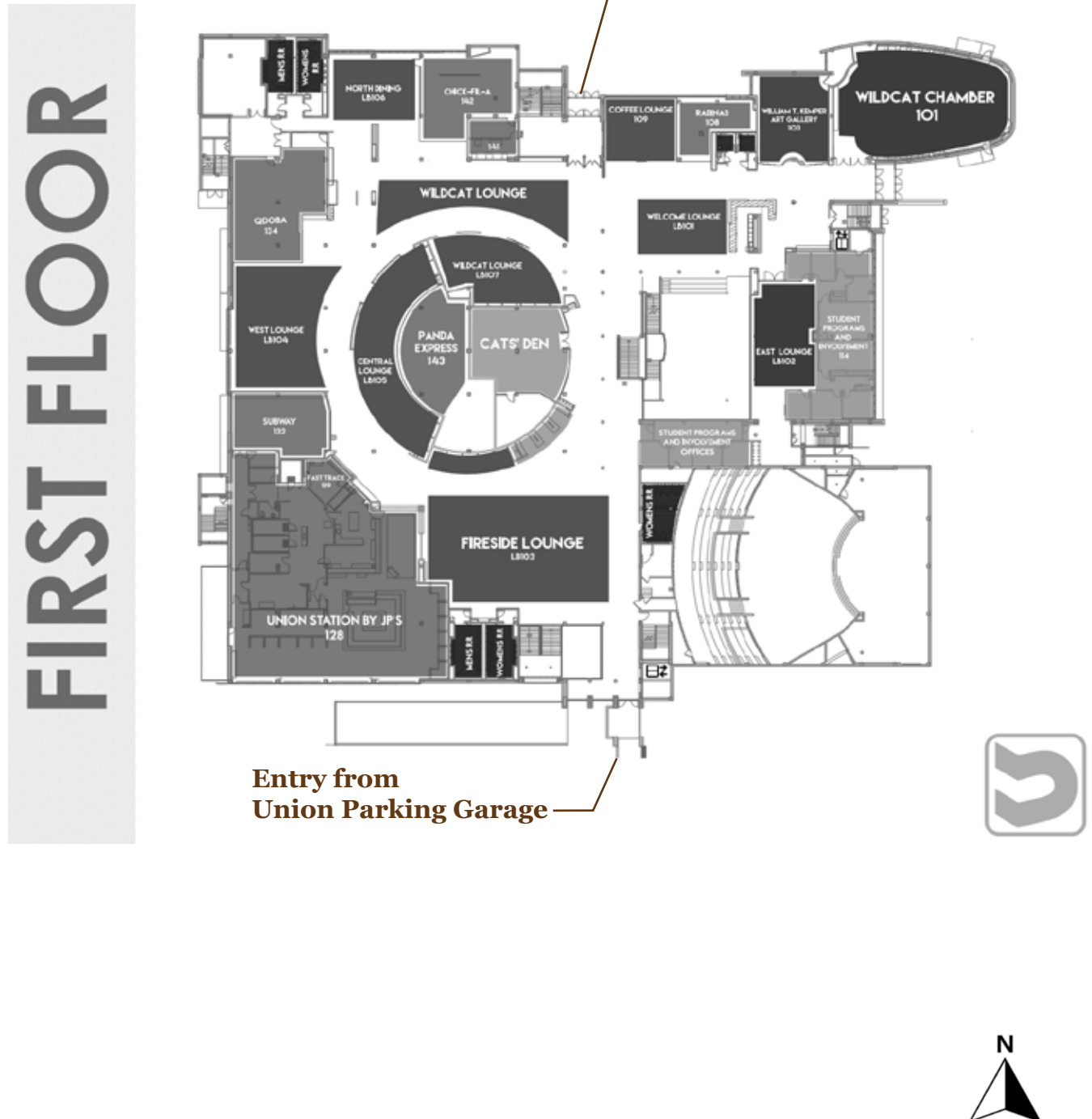
To the right are pictures from

- Our annual "Boxhattan" event 2024
- APA Quad-State Conference 2024
- National Planning Conference 2025



MAP OF K-STATE UNION ROOMS

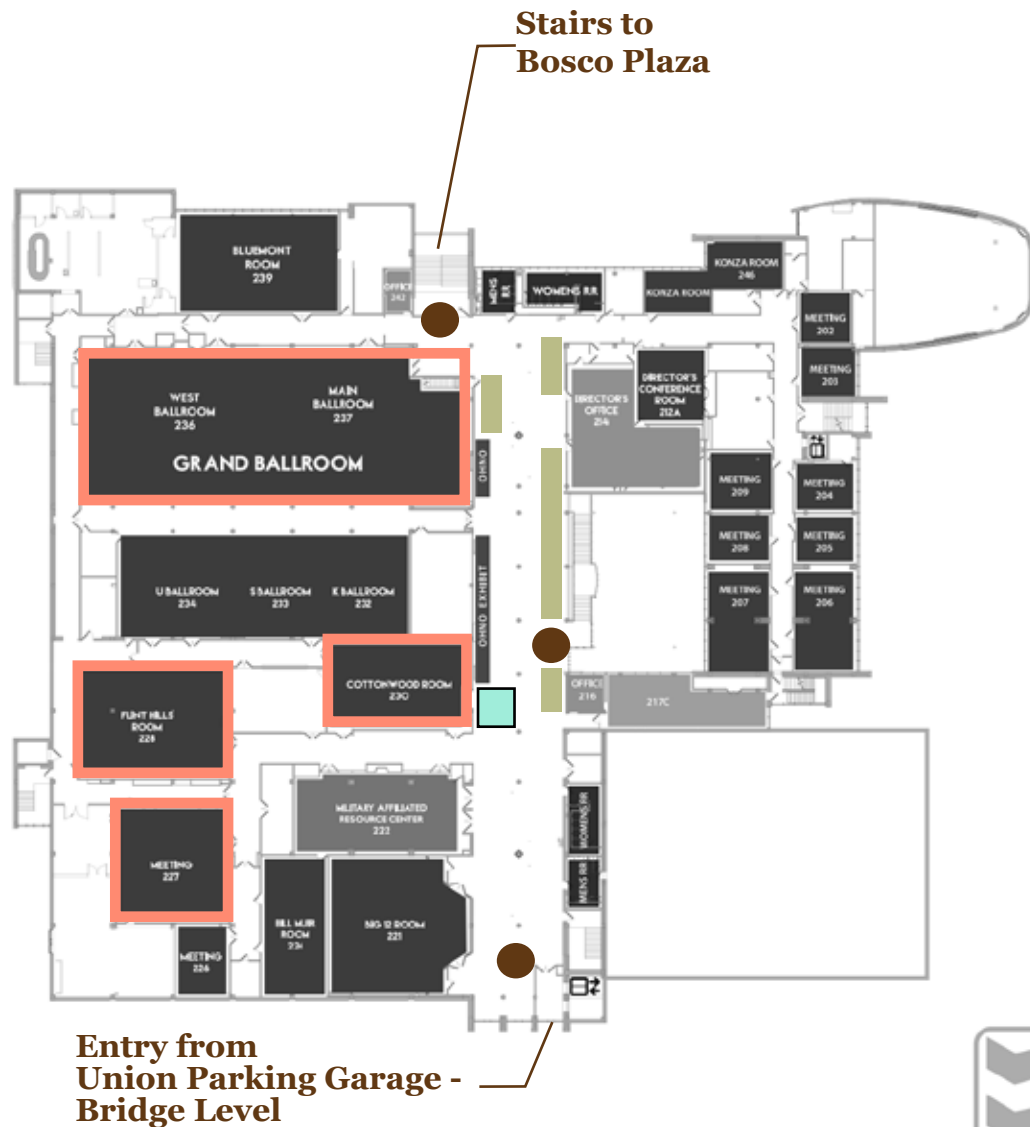
First Floor



MAP OF K-STATE UNION ROOMS

Second Floor

SECOND FLOOR



Meeting Rooms

Grand Ballroom
Cottonwood Room
Flinthills Room
Room 227

Registration Desk

Sponsors Exhibits

Entry and Exit Points



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Do We Change Course?

Join this interactive workshop to explore how planners can adapt to the seismic shifts of 2025 and recalibrate for the future. Using insights from the APA 2025 Trend Report, we'll help you chart your next bold move.



Sheila Shockey,
CEO & Founder



Jeffrey Williams,
AICP

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CERTIFICATION MANAGEMENT CREDITS INFORMATION

CM Credits @ The Kansas Planning Conference

In the Conference Program, each session is assigned CM Credits and indicates if it meets the requirement for one of the four mandatory CM Topics - law, ethics, equity, or sustainability and resilience.

Use the following key for quick reference on which CM topics each session fulfills.



LAW



ETHICS



EQUITY



**SUSTAINABILITY
& RESILIENCE**

How to Log CM Credits

To claim your credits:

1. Go to www.planning.org and in the top righthand corner click “Log In”.
2. Log in using your APA username and password.
3. In the main navigation bar, click on “AICP”.
4. Then select “Certification Maintenance” from the drop-down menu.
5. Under the AICP Members column, click on “Find CM Activities”.
6. Click on “Search by Provider”.
7. Type in APA Kansas Chapter, then click on “GO”.
8. Click on “APA Kansas Chapter” and all available CM credits from the Chapter will appear.
9. Log your credits for the sessions or events you attended.
10. Confirm your attendance and evaluate the session(s) and/or event(s) at https://kusurvey.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bIoGVUgmqvbf3b



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WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Informal Social Gathering

Goolsby's

1212 Bluemont Ave., Suite 130 or enter from the Bluemont Hotel's foyer

Founded by former K-State football team captain Denzel Goolsby, this hot spot offers great food, 30 drink options via their "tap wall", and games for the whole family, including duckpin bowling and multisport simulators.

Reserve your space for the activities ahead of time (<https://goolsbysks.com/>)

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City of Riverside, Missouri - Comprehensive Plan



Crystal Prairie Lake Park Master Plan



Pracht Wetland Park

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THURSDAY SCHEDULE

7:45 – 8:00 a.m.

Concourse

Registration

Registration opens for attendees, speakers/presenters, and sponsors.

8:00 – 8:15 a.m.

Grand Ballroom

Introduction to the Conference

Stephanie Peterson, AICP

Past-President, APA-KS and Director, Community Development Department, City of Manhattan

8:15 – 8:45 a.m.

Grand Ballroom

Welcome Address, Proclamation, and Congratulations

Newly elected President-Elect of the national American Planning Association and Kansas' and Salina's own Lauren Driscoll, will officially open the conference.

Lauren Driscoll, AICP

President-Elect APA and Director, Community & Development Services Department, City of Salina



8:45 – 9:45 a.m.

Grand Ballroom

Keynote Address

Navigating a New Generation Through Placemaking

(1 CM)

Generations change. Tastes change. Trying to stay on top of it all can be overwhelming unless we understand the whys behind the hearts and minds of new generations. When it comes to reaching young adults, there are significant forces to consider that influence how they perceive themselves, the brands they purchase, and the spaces they are drawn to. By understanding a generation's unique operating system, placemakers can be better prepared to tackle the nuances of creating attractive spaces, whether that's in the public, at work, or online. Trust. Innovation. Influence. Loyalty. These are topics that every major organization in the world grapples with in its quest for evolution. Packaged into a dynamic talk with numerous conversation starters, Clint breaks down the driving forces that attendees can rely on to build better communities, opportunities, and effective marketing.

Clint! Runge

CEO & Founder of Archrival (<https://clintrunge.com/>)

Clint! Runge is a founding partner of Archrival, a youth culture agency that wins the hearts and minds of young adults.

Nationally recognized and full of mischief, Archrival goes against the grain of the typical marketing approach to build brand love, sales, and loyalty.



9:45 – 10:00 a.m.

Concourse and/or Grand Ballroom

Break

THURSDAY SCHEDULE

10:00 – 10:45 a.m. Cottonwood Room
A Deeper Dive with Clint! Runge
(0.75 CM)

Spend additional time with the conference's special guest, Clint! Runge, to explore the key priorities in building brands and spaces for young adults in your community.

Discuss with the speaker and among your peers on what this looks like and what are the potential challenges when investing in this demographic.

Clint Runge
CEO & Founder
Archival

Archival is a youth culture agency that reinvents how brands win the hearts and minds of young adults. The firm is an Ad Age Small Agency of the Year Award Winner and has made the Inc 5000 list.

10:00 – 10:45 a.m. Flint Hills Room
Affordability at Risk: Financing Strategies in Kansas' Evolving Housing Landscape
(0.75 CM)

Kansas housing markets are shifting, prices are easing in some regions, yet much of the state still struggles with low supply, aging stock, and rising costs. This session explores real-world projects that combined Kansas Housing Resources Corporation programs with other financing tools to overcome complex hurdles.

Learning outcomes:

1. Discuss the financial challenges, how long-term affordability is addressed, and what current housing data means for future development.
2. Gain practical strategies for navigating capital stacks and sustaining affordability in a changing market.

Deanne Engstrom
Director of Housing Development
Kansas Housing Resources Corporation

10:45 – 11:00 a.m.
Break

Concourse and/or Grand Ballroom

THURSDAY SCHEDULE

11:00 – 11:45 a.m.

Cottonwood Room

Creative Placemaking, Tactile Urbanism, and Park(ing) Day (0.75 CM)

Park(ing) Day is an international event that temporarily reclaims on-street parking spaces for people, not cars, highlighting the possibilities of reimagined public space. In Lawrence, Park(ing) Day has become an opportunity to engage the community, experiment with urban design, and showcase “Third Places”—informal spaces beyond home and work where people gather, connect, and build social capital. This session will walk participants through the planning process, partnerships, and activation strategies that made Park(ing) Day Lawrence a success, as well as how the event connects to broader placemaking principles and AICP Core Competencies.

Learning outcomes:

1. Identify key elements of planning and executing a Park(ing) Day event that fosters community engagement and supports local priorities.
2. Analyze how “Third Place” theory applies to temporary and permanent public space interventions.
3. Apply lessons from Park(ing) Day Lawrence to their own communities to create inclusive, welcoming spaces that encourage social interaction and civic pride.

Thom Allen

Professor of Practice & Associate Director
Urban Planning Program
University of Kansas

The *Creative Placemaking* Session was sponsored by:



11:00 – 11:45 a.m.

Flint Hills Room

Building Trust from Community Engagement to Implementation and Monitoring: Examples from Transportation & Neighborhood Planning (0.75 CM)

Community engagement in planning is a mainstay, and leads to more robust plans and, ideally, builds trust between the public/stakeholders and governments. This session will dive into real world examples of community engagement techniques that build and maintain public trust during the planning phase and beyond, in the context of transportation planning. In addition, we explore an Implementation Monitoring Program, which systematically tracks the progress of small area plans to ensure actions align with plan identified goals. The program creates a structured feedback loop through detailed progress reports and action plans. Thus, it ensures that long-term planning efforts translate into measurable results, improved accountability that guide future updates and improvements.

Kristen Zimmerman, AICP

Team Lead

Professional Engineering Consultants (PEC)

Justin Constantino AICP

Principal Planner

Advanced Plans Division

Planning Department

City of Wichita-Sedgwick County

11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Lunch and Student Showcase

Grand Ballroom

Tex-Mex by Qdoba

THURSDAY SCHEDULE

12:30 – 1:45 p.m. Meet at the Registration Desk
K-State Green Roofs Walking Tour
(0.5 CM)

Green roof research at Kansas State University is led by the Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional & Community Planning in the College of Architecture, Planning, and Design, or APDesign, with help from many other colleges on campus. Five green roofs are currently being studied at K-State: Seaton Hall Upper Green Roof, the Seaton Hall Lower Green Roof, the East Memorial Stadium Green Roof, the West Memorial Stadium Green Roof, and the APDesign Experimental Green Roof.

Lee Skabelund, ASLA
Associate Professor
Landscape Architecture
Kansas State University



1:15 – 3:00 p.m. Meet at the Registration Desk
Planning on the Edge Mobile Workshop
(1.25 CM)

See up-close-and-personal the fruits of public and private labor in the Little Apple's Aggieville District. Hear tales about eight years of aggressive planning and economic development efforts in this historic and cherished neighborhood.

Ben Chmiel, AICP
Senior Planner
Community Development Department,
City of Manhattan



THURSDAY SCHEDULE

1:15 – 2:15 p.m.

Planner Confidential

(1 CM)

Cottonwood Room

One of the best (and hardest) parts of being a planner is that no two days are the same. From unexpected public comments to awkward community meetings, every planner has those unforgettable moments - the kind you find yourself retelling years later. Planner Confidential is a chance to hear those stories, reflect on what they taught us, enjoy a little catharsis, and maybe laugh a little along the way. Attendees will leave with practical insights aligned with AICP Core Competency 3.

Learning outcomes:

1. Interpersonal Communication (3e): Strategies for navigating confusion and misinformation about plans and policies.
2. Mediation and Facilitation (3f): Tools for managing dialogue between groups with competing interests.
3. Public Participation (3k): Tactics for choosing the right engagement format to support productive outcomes and avoid unnecessary conflict.

Brian Jackson, AICP
Project Manager
Planning
Wilson & Company

Ashley Winchell, AICP
Planning & Mobility Practice Lead
Midwest Region
Wilson & Company

Ahnna Nanoski, AICP
Planning Supervisor
City of Kansas City, Missouri

1:15 – 2:15 p.m.

Stuck in the Middle with You(r Ethics)

(1 CM)

Flint Hills Room

Planners work with a wide variety of people in their daily work – applicants, property owners, elected officials, neighborhood residents. Each new step in a planning process presents the possibility of new ethical challenges.

How can an ethical planner make the best choices when encountering clowns, jokers, and other unethical persons?

This session explores possible ethical quandaries faced by planners to examine how thoughtful professionals can ethically respond. We will dive into the Code of Ethics to discuss issues.

Learning outcomes:

1. Responding to uncertain information.
2. Navigating political pressures.
3. Avoiding conflicts of interest.

Sara Copeland, FAICP
Director
Development Management Division
Planning and Development Department
City of Kansas City, Missouri



ETHICS

2:15 – 2:30 p.m.

Break

Concourse and/or Grand Ballroom

THURSDAY SCHEDULE

2:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Cottonwood Room

**Dynamic, Data-informed Decision-making:
The Topeka Pedestrian Plan Update**
(0.5 CM)

Topeka's most recent Pedestrian Plan was approved in 2016. This consisted of a static list of prioritized projects informed by a standard community engagement process. Once the final project from the priority list was completed and other recommendations from the plan were implemented (including the formation of a Complete Streets Advisory Committee), it was time for an update. This new plan-making process began in early 2024. After a presentation from Jason Cyboron (JEO) about the innovative way the plan was developed, I will share how the City of Topeka plans to implement sidewalk improvements based on condition, connectivity, and community needs over the next several years.

Learning outcomes:

1. AICP Core Competency 2b: Quantitative and Qualitative Methods.
2. AICP Core Competency 2f: Spatial Analysis.
3. AICP Core Competency 4f: Problem Solving.

Will Sharp

Multimodal Transportation Planner

Metropolitan Topeka Planning Organization

Jason Cyboron AICP

Active Transportation Planner

JEO Consulting Group

1:15 – 2:15 p.m.

Flint Hills Room

Short Term Rentals in Wichita
(0.5 CM)

The presentation will include highlights of the multi-year process and community dialogue. It will tell the story about the different perspectives received and challenges with crafting zoning regulations and providing guidance in local plans.

Learning outcomes:

1. Why the City of Wichita regulated short term rentals.
2. How the regulations were crafted,
3. Highlights of what the regulations contain.
4. How enforcement is done.
5. Lessons learned.

Scott Wadle, AICP

Planning Director

Wichita-Sedgwick County Metropolitan Area Planning
Department



EQUITY

3:00 – 3:15 p.m.

Break

Concourse and/or Grand Ballroom



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THURSDAY SCHEDULE

3:15 – 4:15 p.m.

Cottonwood Room

Neighborhood Planning: A Vision for Wichita's College Hill Neighborhood (1 CM)

This College Hill Neighborhood Plan is the result of a 16 month planning process that engaged residents, business owners, neighbors, and other stakeholders to inform the plan and guide the recommendations found in the plan. The planning effort kicked off in December 2023 with the first of fourteen Steering Committee meetings.

Learning outcomes:

1. Public engagement.
2. Strategies & actions identified in the plan.
3. The consultant-staff relationship.

Justin Constantino, AICP
Principal Planner
Planning Department
City of Wichita-Sedgwick County

3:15 – 4:15 p.m.

Flint Hills Room

Do We Change Course? (1 CM)

2025 has accelerated beyond expectations, reshaping how communities plan for climate resilience, housing affordability, election security, transportation electrification, and the rise of artificial intelligence. This hands-on interactive workshop uses the APA 2025 Trend Report for Planners as a foundation to explore how global events, shifting policies, and technological advancements are altering key planning trajectories. Participants will engage in facilitated exercises to evaluate local impacts, prioritize actions, and create rapid-response strategies for evolving challenges. Through peer collaboration and guided tools, attendees will leave with actionable approaches to adapt in real time and lead their communities toward equitable and resilient futures.

Learning outcomes:

1. Analyze and Prioritize Emerging Trends: Evaluate how climate, technology, housing, election security, and transportation shifts affect local planning and identify responsive strategies.
2. Practice Adaptive Leadership & Decision-Making: Apply problem-solving and collaboration techniques to navigate rapidly changing conditions and build organizational resilience.
3. Strengthen Public Communication & Engagement: Use interactive methods to foster inclusive community dialogue, build trust, and align stakeholders on actionable solutions.

Sheila Shockey
President, CEO, and Futurist
Shockey Consulting Services, LLC

Nolan Sunderman
Chief Strategy Officer
City of Olathe



**SUSTAINABILITY
& RESILIENCE**

THURSDAY SCHEDULE

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Museum of Art + Light, 316 Pierre Street

Evening Social

Join us after hours in the dynamic foyer of the recently opened Museum of Art + Light (MoA+L) in downtown Manhattan for refreshments and camaraderie. The MoAL is a first of its kind to host traditional, digital, and immersive art experiences to bridge 21st century technology with the visual and performing arts. Its contributions go beyond adding to the architecture of downtown to energizing the city and the Flint Hills Region for the foreseeable future. Hors d'oeuvres and one (1) complimentary drink ticket will be provided to each attendee.



4:00 – 9:00 p.m.

300 – 500 blocks of Poyntz Avenuer

Third Thursday and the Big Little Apple Street Festival

After the evening networking social at the Museum of Art + Light, continue the festivities just two blocks north by experiencing the vibrant energy of downtown Manhattan. Attend the BIG Little Apple Street Festival and final Third Thursday of the season, where you can enjoy live music, local food vendors, unique shops, and community art displays. It's the perfect way to extend the evening, soak up the local culture, and connect with fellow attendees in a lively, festive setting. October's theme is "Be Together, Be Downtown"! How perfect is that for a planning conference.



FRIDAY SCHEDULE

7:45 8:00 a.m.
Registration opens

Concourse

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Cottonwood Room
Gown and Town: Building relationships, impacting work, and contributing to the learning experience
(1 CM)

A city planner, an architecture professor, and hopefully one or more students will speak about the mutually beneficial partnership between town and gown in building real world community projects, especially engagement and outreach, along with planning theories and practices into a studio curriculum.

Learning outcomes:

1. Utilize the competencies of
1. Fundamental Knowledge.
2. Research, Technical, and Analytical.
3. Communication and Interaction.

Gabrielle (Gabby) Coleman
Visiting Assistant Professor
Department of Architecture
Kansas State University

John Verssue, AICP
Planner III
Community Development Department
City of Manhattan

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Flint Hills Room
Becoming AICP: Process and Exam Prep

Thinking of becoming AICP? Come learn about the process, get exam tips, and boost your confidence (if you need that, that is.)

Bonnie J. Johnson, FAICP
Assistant Director
School of Public Affairs & Administration
Professor
Master of Urban Planning Program
University of Kansas



EQUITY

9:00 – 9:15 a.m.
Break

Concourse and/or Grand Ballroom

FRIDAY SCHEDULE

9:15 – 10:15 a.m.

Cottonwood Room

Shoestring Planning: Inspiring and Effective Planning for Less

(1 CM)

This will be a demonstration of how Manhattan planners have found unique ways to develop effective and inspiring plans with very little resources and multiplying efforts by creating community partnerships, utilizing local human capital, adopting private plans, learning new skills, leveraging emerging and advancing technologies like AI, drones, and 3D-modeling, utilizing opportunistic grants, and above all, rethinking what plans are and how they are used. I hope for the session to be somewhat of a dialogue to discuss other's experience with emerging trends in technology and the field in general, contributing to shifts in how we do work.

Learning outcomes:

1. Encourage planners to embrace new technology and learn new skills.
2. Demonstrate how to lower costs of plan development.
3. Encourage planners to rethink the essence of plans and planning process.

Ben Chmiel

Senior Planner

Community Development Department

City of Manhattan

9:15 – 10:15 a.m.

Flint Hills Room

Large Scale Utility Solar in Sedgwick County

(1 CM)

From September 2023 to the present, staff from the Wichita-Sedgwick County Planning Department worked with members of the public, elected & appointed officials, and various stakeholders to draft changes to the existing Unified Zoning Code regarding large-scale solar energy conversion systems. Three takeaway points: 1.) process for developing code text 2.) public outreach & community input 3.) working with elected officials / consultant to develop code that works.

Justin Constantino AICP

Principal Planner

Advanced Plans Division

Planning Department

City of Wichita-Sedgwick County

10:15 – 10:30 a.m.

Break

Concourse and/or Grand Ballroom

FRIDAY SCHEDULE

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Cottonwood Room
Lessons Learned from Caselaw
(1 CM)

This session will highlight recent Kansas cases and how the decisions impact how planning boards and governing bodies conduct business.

Katie Jackson, JD
City Attorney
City of Manhattan

Michael Farley, JD/AICP
Assistant Counsel
Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, KS



10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Flint Hills Room
Expanding Access to Childcare – Design and Project Planning Considerations
(1 CM)

Grow Hays facilitated construction of a 14,000 square-foot community center that houses co-working services, a senior center and childcare facility. The \$6 million facility includes a childcare center, a senior center, commercial kitchen, and a large multi-purpose room. The licensed childcare center offers year-round programming to 77 childcare students, while the senior center will be a gathering space for an independent living community.

Learning outcomes:

1. Provide a general understanding of the fundamental knowledge, experience, and skill sets required to execute a successful project.
2. The research and use of technical and analytical skills to identify and align resources.
3. The development of strategic community partnerships and coordination of multiple public and private agencies and businesses, resources, and the timely execution to culminate in the successful project.

Doug Williams
Executive Director
Grow Hays

Melissa Rooker
Executive Director
Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund

TESSERE
JR Robl, Director of Community, Civic and Cultural
Business Development

Christian Kaufman, AIA+WELL AP, LEED AP BD+C
Project Architect

Victor Burks AICP
Director of Planning Services

11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Lunch, Awards, and Annual APA-KS Meeting

Grand Ballroom
German-American by Friendly House

FRIDAY SCHEDULE

12:45 – 1:45 p.m.

Cottonwood Room

State and Federal Planning Legislation: Priorities, Bills, and Upcoming in 2026 (1 CM)

Members of the APA KS Chapter Legislative Committee will discuss the 2025 KS state legislative session and the bills that were relevant to Planners, as well as the Federal Legislative Landscape, Committee events, priorities, and strategies, and legislative actions to watch in the upcoming 2026 session.

Learning outcomes:

1. The session will cover the purpose of the KS Legislative Committee: foundational priorities of the committee, alignment with APA National, and ongoing efforts to build relationships with elected representatives and partners.
2. We will discuss the 2025 Kansas legislative session by covering the bills that were introduced and where they are now, and explaining our position and outcomes on bills for which KS APA provided key testimony.
3. Speakers will place special emphasis on bills and programs that affect housing at both the state and federal level, namely local zoning legislation and federal housing programs that are under scrutiny.

Karie Kneller AICP
Senior Planner
City of Leawood

Martin Rivarola AICP
Transportation Planning Director
Mid-America Regional Council

Lauren Driscoll AICP
Director of Community and Development Services
City of Salina

Michael Farley, AICP
Assistant Council
Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City

12:45 – 2:00 p.m.

Flint Hills Room

Not Your Father's Zoning Regs (1.25 CM)

Do you ever sit back, look at your regulations and processes, and ask yourself, "Why do we do it this way?" or "Why do we have that restriction in place?" The need for new housing drove the City of Manhattan to ask itself those questions. Zoning and subdivision codes primarily focus on greenfield development. As a result, older parts of towns have lots and buildings that may not comply with current dimensional, density, or bulk standards. These so-called nonconformities make reuse, redevelopment, or building additions unnecessarily difficult. This called for a new approach to established neighborhoods: ignoring the standards for new development. Staff worked with developers and architects to identify some of the hurdles to infill and create code amendments to reduce or remove them. This will be a panel discussion that includes a developer and architect who were involved.

Learning outcomes:

1. Outside-the-box problem solving.
2. Collaboration with development professionals.
3. Flexibility in zoning administration.

John Adam, AICP
Assistant Director
Community Development Department
City of Manhattan

Brad Buser, AIA
Partner
Anderson Knight Architects

Zac Burton
Owner
Fortress Development

1:45 – 2:00 p.m.

Break

Concourse and/or Grand Ballroom

FRIDAY SCHEDULE

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Plan-pourri
(1 CM)

Cottonwood Room

Planning Under Pressure: Balancing Public Conflict with Professional Care

Planning is a people-facing profession but planners may be caught off guard for emotionally charged public conversations. This session equips attendees with real-world tools to stay grounded, communicate with empathy, and reduce tension when community feedback turns confrontational.

Alex Van Dyke
City Planner
City of Basehor

How Long-Term Housing Demand is Being Addressed in Refugee Resettlement

Refugees are individuals who have fled their home country due to a well-founded fear of persecution and are resettled in a new country. Refugees resettled in the the United States are eligible for all refugee with social services. But how refugees are placed in housing is unknown.

Olivia Depperschmidt
Honors Program Administrator
Kansas State University Honors Program

Zoned Out: Land Use Policy and the Unhoused in Des Moines, Iowa

This presentation explores how land use policies and zoning regulations in Des Moines, Iowa, contribute to the displacement and marginalization of unhoused residents. Drawing from qualitative interviews, spatial analysis, and policy review, the session highlights actionable planning strategies to address housing insecurity through equitable, innovative, and feasible land use and regional planning reform.

Bethany Stock, AICP
Planner I
HNTB

The Planning
Slam! Session
was
sponsored by:



EQUITY

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Planning Slam!
(0.5 CM)

Flint Hills Room

Equity by Design: Inclusive Planning for Disabled Communities

What does it mean to truly design for everyone? This fast-paced session introduces planners to practical ways to ensure neurodivergent and disabled residents are represented not just in engagement, but in the very fabric of plan-making, design, and policy.

Alex Van Dyke

Six Voices: One Beat

Planning Slam the Shockey Way - 6 people share a 1-minute poem/song to share with you a quick-fire planning tips, tricks, or techniques that help build resilient, connected communities. We tie it together with one groovy beat!

Sheila Shockey

Promoting Environmental Awareness Through Hands-On Planning Education

This presentation, as part of a Planning Slam panel, gives a brief overview of how hands-on learning in urban planning education promotes sustainability and students' perceptions of remediation strategies for hazardous sites. This presentation particularly highlights a course that investigates brownfield redevelopment and promotes sustainability by introducing students to environmental hazards and mitigation strategies.

Avery Neer, student

What Developers Wish Planners Knew: Bridging Perspectives for Better Cities

Collaboration between planners and developers is essential for shaping the future of our cities. This presentation offers insight into the developer's perspective to strengthen your effectiveness as a planner.

Austin Cecilio Webb, student

Importance of Connecting Rural and Urban Studies and Planning

This presentation will be part of large group for Planning Slam, looking into the importance of planning and initiatives from the student perspective. My section will focus on the importance of looking at both Urban and Rural planning methods during educational careers and how this can shape better planners for the future.

Mara Matthews, student

Learning and Leading: A Student and Graduate Teaching Assistant Perspective on Community Engagement

The presentation highlights community engagement in planning from the perspectives of a student and a graduate teaching assistant. Drawing on experiences in Lyons, Kansas, as a student, and in the Durban neighborhood of Kansas City as a teacher's assistant, this experience highlights how engagement fosters equity, trust, and learning in the planning profession.

Salma Aouam student

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PLANNING COMMISSIONER TRAINING

8:00-10:00 a.m.

Registration

Concourse

Registration opens for attendees.

10:00-11:30 a.m.

Session 1. Understand Your Role in Community Growth

Room 227

The first session starts with planning commission basics, including:

- What is planning
- Why and how to plan
- What to know about Kansas State Regulations
- The differing roles between commissioners and staff, and
- How to identify and handle conflicts of interest

11:30-12:45 p.m.

Lunch

Grand Ballroom

Enjoy a German-American lunch catered by Friendly House of Wamego.

12:45-1:45 p.m.

Session 2. Essential Planning Tools

Room 227

Fill your planning commissioner toolbox with an understanding and application of zoning and subdivision regulations, as well as strategies to build better commission dynamics, to help achieve your community's vision.

1:45-2:00 p.m.

Break

Concourse and/or Grand Ballroom

2:00-3:00 p.m.

Session 3. Ask the Experienced

Room 227

A group of planners with diverse experiences, including as commissioners and administrators, across various planning subfields and at both the city and county levels, will join us to answer questions, provide tips, and share the latest advancements in planning methods and techniques.



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